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Japan

Reaction to U.S. Suspension of Hostility in Gulf

Kaifu, Nakayama Urge Iraqi Compliance

OW2802053391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0503 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 28 (KYODO)—Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu urged Iraq on Thursday to comply with U.S. conditions for ending the Persian Gulf war.

Speaking to reporters after U.S. President George Bush announced the suspension of offensive military operations, Kaifu said Iraqi President Saddam Husayn should accept the U.S. plan without attaching conditions.

Bush, declaring victory in the Gulf war, said Allied forces would suspend offensive operations by midnight Wednesday Washington time (0500 GMT Thursday). He said that, for a permanent ceasefire, Iraq must accept all relevant United Nations resolutions, release all Allied prisoners of war and Kuwaiti detainees, rescind its annexation of Kuwait and accept "in principle" its responsibility to pay war damages.

Kaifu, asked whether Husayn should be allowed to stay in power, said Japan does not favor the overthrow of the Iraqi Government by outside forces.

"The matter should be decided by the people of Iraq. My hope is that (Iraq) will be a peaceful country that can be accepted into the international community," he said.

Kaifu offered assistance to help the region recover from the destruction of war, adding that he would respect the initiatives of the Middle Eastern nations.

He thanked the U.S.-led multinational forces and Bush for freeing Kuwait from seven months of Iraqi occupation, and helping to "maintain international justice."

Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama, meanwhile, telephoned U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to welcome Bush's decision to suspend operations against Iraq. He said Japan hopes Iraq will accept all U.N. resolutions related to the Gulf crisis.

In his conversation with Baker, Nakayama expressed his condolences for soldiers killed in the war and their families and pledged Japanese assistance in postwar reconstruction.

Nakayama told reporters that Japanese "humanitarian aid" to Kuwait and assistance in postwar reconstruction could include help with environmental projects, urban reconstruction, and quarantine efforts. He also said the Foreign Ministry will soon work to reopen the Japanese Embassy in Kuwait.

If the United Nations asks Japan to take part in peacekeeping operations, Nakayama said, his ministry would consult with the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], Komeito and Democratic Socialist Party, the three parties which have supported Japan's pledge of 9 billion dollars in additional assistance to the Allied war effort. The aid is still being debated in the Japanese Diet, or Parliament.

Nakayama said Japan will not change the purpose of the aid—designed to help pay for the Allied effort to drive Iraq out of Kuwait.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto, meanwhile, ruled out the dispatch of Japanese troops to take part in a U.N. peacekeeping force. While leaving open the possibility of a nonmilitary role for Japan, he said constitutional restraints on dispatching soldiers overseas would prevent Japan from participating in a peacekeeping force.

"Under our Constitution it would be difficult to join peacekeeping forces, because they would comprise an army that uses force," Sakamoto told a separate news conference. Japan's postwar Constitution bars the use of force to resolve international conflicts.

Sakamoto's remark was the first official comment by the government stipulating that Japan may not send soldiers abroad to fight, even under the auspices of the United Nations.

Limitations on Japanese participation in resolving international conflicts have been the subject of wide public debate since last fall, when the government proposed establishing a "U.N. peace cooperation corps" to participate in nonmilitary aspects of operations authorized by the U.N. The bill was dropped following stiff protests from opposition parties.

At the time, the LDP's research bureau stated that the constitution allows participation by Japan's Self-Defense Forces in U.N. peacekeeping activities as long as the conflict is between third parties.

Sakamoto said Japan would be able to assist in nonmilitary aspects of peacekeeping by such means as sending observers to verify a ceasefire or to monitor elections.

Business Leaders Welcome Cease-fire

OW2802083591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0647 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 28 KYODO—Japanese business leaders on Thursday welcomed a U.S. conditional cessation of offensive military operations against Iraq in the Persian Gulf war and expressed willingness to help postwar reconstruction in the region.

Following U.S. President George Bush's announcement in Washington that the multinational forces will halt all offensive operations against Iraq, Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), said he strongly hopes for a quick and smooth start of peace negotiations.

Takashi Ishihara, chairman of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives (Keizai Doyukai), said that both the government and private sector of Japan should cooperate for the peace in the war-torn Middle East countries as much as possible after the war.

Eiji Suzuki, president of the Japan Federation of Employers' Associations (Nikkeiren), called on the Japanese Government to start preparing for cooperation in case the United Nations forms a peace-keeping force for the Gulf area.

Osamu Uno, chairman of the Kansai Economic Federation, said the Kansai business world of western Japan was pleased by the decision to halt military operations. He expressed the hope that Iraq would accept the demands of the U.S.-led multinational forces, in order to end the war, adding that Japan should cooperate in creation of a new order for maintaining peace in the Middle East.

Ryuichi Kato, chairman of the Nagoya Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said he will be pleased if international conferences the city of Nagoya is scheduled to host can open without fear of international turmoil.

Japanese industrial leaders, however, remained rather cautious, saying a real settlement would still take a considerably long time, and many said they will wait and see how things develop from now on.

Officials at Mitsui and Co., a major trading firm, said they felt a kind of relief at the U.S. decision to halt the offensive. If a ceasefire is realized in the Middle East, they could go back to their normal business activities, which they had been restricted during the war, the officials said.

But an official at a plant equipment maker who asked for anonymity pointed out that there would be fears of terrorism in the Gulf region after the war, centering on the issue of how Iraqi President Saddam Husayn should be treated after the war. His company would still wait and see what happens there, he said.

Most of the plant manufacturers are considering how and when they can resume construction projects in the Gulf region interrupted by the war or begin work on orders received before the conflict began.

Trading company people also showed a cool attitude, saying that business risks in the Middle East would remain high.

According to industry sources, Japanese trading companies have a total of about 700 billion yen worth of credit tied up in Iraq, most of which they fear cannot be collected "within this century." Many trading firms will have to review and change their business policies, the sources said.

Sho Nasu, president of Tokyo Electric Power Co. and chairman of the Federation of Electric Power Companies, said he strongly felt the weaknesses of Japan's energy industry, which is dependent on imports from the Middle East for nearly 70 percent of its energy resources. Nasu said he would try from now on to establish a better domestic production environment in energy.

Officials at Toyota Motor Corp. said the Japanese should cooperate in reconstruction in the Middle East, and Toyota, for its part, should prepare automobile production facilities in order to meet special demands from the region.

Industry Concerned Over Oil Prices

OW2802061891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0601 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 28 (KYODO)—The Petroleum Association of Japan on Thursday welcomed U.S. President George Bush's announcement of a halt to offensive military operations in the Persian Gulf but officials said they are now concerned about oil prices after the war ends.

The officials said their concerns have now shifted to possible moves by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to control oil prices by cutting production.

Bush said Wednesday in the White House that the U.S.-led Allied forces will cease all offensive operations in the Persian Gulf provided, among other conditions, that Iraq immediately release all prisoners of war and Kuwaiti detainees, and that its troops do not shoot at Allied soldiers or fire missiles.

Dubai Crude Oil, the benchmark crude in Tokyo trading, is currently changing hands at below 10 dollars per barrel, the level before the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq, amid increased production by major exporting countries such as Saudi Arabia.

Industry officials said OPEC members were recently estimated to be producing almost 23 million barrels a day without Iraq and Kuwait, sufficient to meet present demand.

Akira Idemitsu, executive director of Idemitsu Kosan Co., said that with the reported destruction of Kuwaiti oil fields by Iraq, production capability of the two countries combined is expected to recover to only about a quarter of what it was before the Gulf crisis, or one million barrels per day, within a year.

Masao Ito, an executive of Nippon Oil Co., said it is likely that OPEC will act to raise prices after peace is restored in the Gulf, by reducing the amount of production.

Analysts project that the OPEC will target a price level of 21 dollars per barrel as the bottom edge. They added, however, that it is not clear whether this can be achieved, given the seasonal drop in petroleum demand toward spring and recession in the U.S. economy.

OPEC is scheduled to hold a meeting in Vienna on March 11, which the analysts said will indicate the future trend of oil prices.

Meanwhile, officials of Arabian Oil Co., Japan's largest oil producer, said they will send personnel to their oil production complex in the Gulf to examine damage caused by the war.

If the damage is minor, the company expects to resume its operations, which were halted by an Iraqi missile attack in the early stages of the war, within three weeks, the officials said. So far, the only known damage is to one of its oil tanks, which was set on fire by the missile attack, they said.

The complex is located in the neutral zone between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, in Khafji, where a limited ground battle took place on February 1. It employed about 2,000 workers before the crisis and produced about 250,000 barrels of oil per day.

Arabian oil has been able to continue supplying its clients as the government-owned Saudi Arabian Oil Co. agreed to provide it with oil, the officials said.

Government Considers Postwar Aid for Gulf

OW2702151491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1331 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 27 KYODO—Japan is considering postwar aid for nations in the Persian Gulf area and Asia hit hard by the conflict, a senior Foreign Ministry official said Wednesday.

The official said when the war ends, assistance for Kuwait would be direct reconstruction aid, considering the destruction of the Emirate by the Iraqi invasion and the ensuing war. He cited that Japan's Gulf crisis aid considers such effects as halts in exports, cuts in remittances from migrant laborers, impacts on tourism, an oil price hike, and 2 billion dollars promised for Egypt, Jordan, and Turkey.

"It is very unlikely their economies could soon revive to the level before August 2, and there remains need for continued assistance," the official said. He did not elaborate.

He said Japan must consider helping not only the frontline Gulf nations but also Asian nations as well. But the official said a postwar regional framework must be created by the nations involved themselves and outside nations must not impose ideas on them.

Another top ministry official said Japan is readying plans to extend cooperation in the form of helping clean up an oil spill and other environment damage in the Gulf.

The officials said Japan has not yet received specific requests from Middle East nations. The six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) nations plus Syria and Egypt are considering postwar cooperation, ministry officials have said.

On future Japanese aid for Iraq, the previous official noted the possibility of joining international humanitarian supply work through the International Red Cross or other world bodies if "Baghdad returns to regional communities celebrated by its neighbors."

Turning to some domestic debates on setting up new aid guidelines depending on the size of each nation's arms exports and military expenditure, the official affirmed it would be worth considering. But he said it would be extremely difficult to judge the justification of Japanese aid solely on such viewpoints and a comprehensive judgment is required.

Mutsuki Kato, a top executive of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, was reported to have considered linking the two in future Japanese aid.

Citing aid to China, the ministry official said, "If we decide not to give aid to nations with nuclear weapons, fine. But for example, then should we neglect assistance for China ?" "We are extending aid to China judging it would contribute to stability in the whole of Northeast Asia," the official said.

Asked if Japan was ignored in the very recent announcement that foreign ministers of Britain, France, and Germany will visit Washington, the official denied the view and said Japan is determined to commit itself in an international forum to consider postwar reconstruction of the Gulf area. He said there has been no invitation from the United States for the Japanese foreign minister to visit.

The other top official said apart from aiding foreign nations, policy making will include crisis management for Japanese themselves. He said he would lead the ministry to map out policies to expand Japan's international short-wave radio broadcasts through semipublic network Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK), improvement of telecommunications methods between embassies abroad, and to consider evacuation methods if Japanese nationals are involved in new regional conflicts.

Iraq took as hostages many Japanese businessmen along with Westerners.

"We learned a lot through the Gulf crisis and that must not be forgotten amid the rapid progress in events. It should be implemented in policies against possible repetition," he said.

Emergency Supplies 'Ready'

OW2802111191 Tokyo KYODO in English 1031 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 28 KYODO—Japanese emergency supplies of medical and evacuation goods are ready to be shipped and await only a Kuwaiti Government request and appropriate flight arrangements, Foreign Ministry officials said Thursday.

The officials said the urgent humanitarian aid would comprise water supplies, medicines, lamps, electricity generators and other goods worth several tens of million yen. They said the items will be taken from supply stocks either at Narita or Singapore and will be sent as soon as Kuwaiti officials request them and appropriate flights can be arranged.

They said they hope the March 2 and 5 flights from Dhahran, which are to carry previously pledged oil booms and other goods to counter the oil spill in the Gulf, could also be used to transport the Kuwait-bound goods.

As for emergency aid for Iraq, on the other hand, one senior administration official noted the need of appeals from the International Red Cross, which has a branch in Baghdad.

Officials also said a plan is under way to send a medical mission to Iran to help the thousands of war evacuees from Iraq there.

But ministry officials indicated it would be difficult for Japan to provide aid to Iraq if President Saddam Husayn remains in power.

Apart from such short-term help, the officials said Japan would commit itself to technical assistance in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Kuwait. They said, however, Japan now sees little possibility of directly pumping money into Kuwait because of the emirate's rich foreign currency reserves.

The senior official cited reports that U.S. and European firms have already begun competing to attract reconstruction contracts and said: "There might be a feeling there against allowing participation by firms from Japan, which never shed any blood during the Gulf war, and it seems many Japanese companies are well aware of that sentiment."

But the official said there is room for Japanese technological cooperation, centering on environment damage assessment, rehabilitation works, and urban design engineering. He cited as an example the field of salt-to-fresh water conversion, saying Japan's technology in that area is among the best.

Ministry officials noted there is a need to dispatch research missions to the emirate to assess the scale of destruction and the nation's real needs as soon as possible.

As for Japan's long-term comprehensive postwar economic assistance to the Middle East, the officials said Japan would assist regional nations in their initiatives. They said Japan estimates that other than for directly affected frontline nations, assistance will be also required for Asia, Eastern Europe, and some other African nations also economically hit by the conflict.

As for Asia, one official said aid adjustment has ended for Sri Lanka, and recently also for the Philippines through new IMF loans. Consideration has yet to be given to India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, he said.

Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama is set to travel to Washington to meet Secretary of State James Baker to discuss postwar regional reconstruction, including the possible creation of an international fund or other financial institutions, when Baker returns from the Middle East, the officials said.

Nation 'Left Out' of Kuwait's Reconstruction

OW2802040091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0347 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] London, Feb. 28 (KYODO)—Japan was left out in the auction that gave rights to companies to do the early stages of Kuwait's emergency reconstruction, sources said Wednesday.

The sources cited a report filed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers, which gave contracts to 36 firms, out of which 32 companies were American, British, and Saudi Arabian, to engage in the reconstruction of Kuwait in the first three months after the war.

The corps has been hired by the Kuwaiti Government to supervise the early stages of the country's restoration and is in charge of auctioning contracts on behalf of the Kuwaiti Government.

The emergency recovery program is the first stage of the reconstruction plan, and it is estimated the program will cost 20 million pounds sterling, or 5.08 billion yen. Airport, roads, waterworks, desalination plants, electric power plants damaged in the Iraqi occupation, will be restored in the emergency program. The total reconstruction of Kuwait is expected to cost 100 billion pounds, or about 25.4 trillion yen.

The corps began taking bids in mid-February from companies around the world. From Britain, about 150 firms applied for the auction.

The 36 companies with winning bids will submit construction plans to the corps by Thursday so they can sign final contracts. Twelve of the companies came from the United States, 10 came from Britain and Saudi Arabia, two from France, one each came from Kuwait and Cyprus.

The sources said the corps is weighing bids mostly on "the amount of contribution to the liberation" of Kuwait that companies' home countries made. The Kuwaiti Government made that factor one of the criteria for awarding bids.

Hence analysts say U.S. firms will eventually receive most of the contracts, but the British Government expects its firms to accept around 25 percent of the bonanza.

Japan's Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto earlier said that Tokyo is willing to help restore nations damaged by the Gulf war if it receives requests for help. He said, however, that aid will be provided only if it does not subject Japan to criticism, such as allegations that its aid is an "economic invasion."

Power Companies Offer Oil Booms to Gulf Fund

OW2702224191 Tokyo KYODO in English 1505 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 27 KYODO—Tokyo Electric Power Co. and six other electric power companies have decided to offer, for a price, oil booms totaling 5,380 meters to the Gulf Peace Fund to block the further expansion of the oil slick in the Persian Gulf.

The Gulf Peace Fund is operated under the Gulf Cooperation Council, which was set up by leading industrialized nations, including Japan and the United States, to decide the disbursement of the fund.

The sale offer was made in response to a request by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry.

Hokkaido Electric Power Co. will offer to sell 200 meters, Tokyo Electric, 1,400 meters, Chubu Electric Power Co., 960, Hokuriku Electric Power Co., 400, Kansai Electric Power Co., 1,500, Chugoku Electric Power Co., 520, and Kyushu Electric Power Co., 400.

Lower House Approves Supplementary War Budget

OW2802113191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0851 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 28 KYODO—The House of Representatives approved Thursday a second 1990 supplementary budget and a package of bills to fund 9 billion dollars in further assistance Japan pledged to the U.S.-led multinational forces arrayed in the Persian Gulf region.

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and the two centrist opposition parties—Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP)—voted for the measures to boost Japan's financial support as part of its contribution to international efforts to restore peace and stability in the Middle East.

Three opposition parties, including the largest, the Social Democratic Party (SDP), formerly known as the Japan Socialist Party, voted against the supplementary budget and the bills, saying Japan should not share the war costs of the allied forces because of its war-renouncing Constitution.

The 1.13 trillion yen supplementary budget and the bills to issue national bonds and to raise corporate and petroleum taxes are expected to be enacted after being approved by the House of Councillors next week, Diet sources said.

To win the backing of Komeito and the DSP, whose support is vital in the upper house dominated by the opposition, the government and the ruling party dropped a plan to increase the cigarette tax and incorporated measures to reduce government expenditures, including defense spending.

Japan has disbursed or pledged a total of 11 billion dollars in financial assistance to the multinational forces and 2 billion dollars in economic aid to the frontline nations hit hard by the Gulf crisis.

Kuwaiti Envoy Thanks Kaifu for Support

OW2802080591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0700 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 28 KYODO—Kuwaiti Ambassador to Japan 'Abd al-'aziz al-Sharikh thanked Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on Thursday for supporting the "liberation of Kuwait," saying that in doing so Kaifu had also promoted the reputation and interests of Japan.

Japan's early condemnation of Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait was "honorable, courageous, and great," the ambassador told reporters after paying a courtesy call on Kaifu. "The people of Japan owe a great deal of thanks to Kaifu-san because through what he did, and through what he tried to do, he protected the interests and reputation of Japan," al-Sharikh said.

He paid the visit shortly after U.S. President George Bush announced in a televised address that "Kuwait is liberated."

Japan pledged 11 billion dollars to the U.S.-led multinational forces, and an additional 2 billion dollars in economic assistance, mainly for Egypt, Jordan, and Turkey.

Kaifu also tried to create a Japanese force to provide [words indistinct] assistance to the U.S.-led multinational forces. The proposal, however, was killed in the Diet.

The ambassador said that he hoped Japan's own experience in rebuilding after World War II, coupled with its technological capabilities, would help Kuwait recover.

SDP Continues To Seek Gubernatorial Candidate

OW2202134791 Tokyo KYODO in English 1256 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] Morioka, Feb. 22 KYODO—Social Democratic Party [SDP] Chairwoman Takako Doi said Friday her party has not abandoned the idea of putting up a candidate in the Tokyo gubernatorial election in April.

Doi was responding to press reports that the party would not field a candidate because she said Thursday she had exhausted all efforts to find someone to run in the election. The SDP leader said she had meant to say the party could not find a suitable candidate from within its own ranks.

"The governor is someone the city's citizens choose," Doi explained. "I want to respect what the Tokyo chapter (of the party) thinks and decides on city matters. If we don't communicate on this adequately, we won't be respecting the will of the city's citizens."

The declaration, made at a press conference in the northern city of Morioka where she was campaigning for coming unified local elections, was an attempt to head off an apparent misunderstanding within the party over her Thursday statement.

Earlier Friday, a majority of SDP members of the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly responded to Doi's Thursday announcement by declaring they will mount their own independent search for a candidate.

Kaifu Plans To Tour ASEAN, PRC in May

OW2802082991 Tokyo KYODO in English 0627 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 28 (KYODO)—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu hopes to make his suspended visit to five-member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and China in May as soon as the regular Diet session ends, government officials said Thursday.

Kaifu indicated his plans for the overseas trip to former Finance Minister Michio Watanabe, who called on the prime minister the same day prior to his departure for a visit to ASEAN countries. The prime minister was quoted as saying, "I wish to make the visit as soon as the regular Diet session concludes. Please convey my hope to leaders (of the concerned countries)," the officials said.

The current Diet session is scheduled to end on May 8.

Kaifu also asked Watanabe to deliver his personal letters to leaders of Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, and China.

Kaifu canceled the planned tour to the ASEAN region in early January because of developments in the Persian Gulf crisis prior to the U.N. imposed deadline for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait. Kaifu was scheduled to make a seven-day visit to Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Brunei.

'Major Setback' in January Trade Due to War

OW2702161391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1010 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 27 KYODO—Japan's trade with Middle East nations suffered a major setback in January, a sign of the increasingly negative effect of the Persian Gulf War on two-way trade, an industry organization reported Wednesday.

The Japan Foreign Trade Council said exports and imports with Middle East nations, gauged by contracts made by Japan's 18 major trading houses, plunged 66.9 percent each in January from December to 43 billion yen and 175.8 billion yen, respectively.

On a year-on-year basis, the figures translate into a 0.9 percent dip for exports and a 20.4 percent decline for imports.

The council said the poor export figures are due mostly to the Persian Gulf War, which induced a sharp decline in Japanese plant contracts there.

The January export value was a mere one-third the monthly average of 127.6 billion yen in 1990.

Behind the dwindling imports lies the softening crude oil market amid a worldwide market glut. "Japanese trade with the Middle East is likely to remain in the doldrums for the time being, considering the continuing weak crude oil market and other factors," a council official said.

In contrast, the country's overall contract-based exports leaped 45 percent to 1,178.9 billion yen from a year earlier in January, the sharpest increase since May 1980, buoyed by strong demand for Japanese automobiles, ships, and other machinery.

Southeast Asia, the United States, and Western Europe were conspicuous buyers of Japanese products.

Overall imports marked the first decline in seven months, decreasing 3.0 percent to 1,141.1 billion yen, pushed down both in volume and value by declining crude oil prices. Purchases of textiles, metals, machinery, and other items were also particularly weak.

The council based the data on an assumed yen-dollar trading rate of 133.90 yen, an 8.4 percent appreciation from January 1990.

LDP Urges Aid Suspension to Arms Exporters

OW2702140891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0659 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 27 KYODO—The chief policy officer of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] on Wednesday called for a halt to Japanese economic assistance to arms-exporting countries. The officer, Mutsuki Kato, proposed that Japan should adopt the measure as a state policy.

The government and the LDP have already begun studies to review Japan's aid policy in relation to arms sales, he said.

Kato, appearing on a Fuji TV program, denounced countries which supplied arms to help Iraq become a major military power.

Kato, chairman of the LDP's policy affairs research council, said Japan should take the initiative in calling for the suspension of economic aid to arms-exporting countries through the United Nations.

There currently are international restrictions on the export of nuclear and chemical weapons, but none concerning the sale of tanks or artillery, he said.

Among the major suppliers of arms to Iraq are the Soviet Union, France, Britain and Germany, none of which receive Japanese economic assistance.

However, China, which supplied silkworm missiles to Iraq, is one of the largest Japanese aid recipients. Japan has promised 810 billion yen in aid to China between 1990 and 1995.

Romania, Bulgaria, Sudan To Receive Food Aid

OW2202164991 Tokyo KYODO in English 1413 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 22 KYODO—Japan will extend powdered milk assistance to Romania and Bulgaria and wheat aid to Sudan through the World Food Program (WFP), the Foreign Ministry announced Friday.

The aid is worth 200 million yen each for the two East European nations, hit by drought, a stagnation of agricultural production, and the effects of the war in the Persian Gulf.

The Japanese aid, in line with the humanitarian policy of the G-24 (Group of 24) for economic assistance to Central and Eastern European countries, will overcome the shortage of powdered milk for infants in the two countries, the ministry said.

Japanese aid to Romania was last extended during the confusion following the toppling of President Nicolae Ceausescu in late 1989, when 1 million dollars in cash aid was provided through the International Red Cross.

Meanwhile, the ministry announced Japan has decided to give 400 million yen worth of wheat aid to Sudan, also through the WFP. Sudan is suffering from drought and expecting a serious setback in farm production, the ministry said.

Firm To Help Poland Combat Pollution

OW2502103591 Tokyo KYODO in English 1009 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 25 KYODO—Electric Power Development Co. said Monday it will provide technical assistance to help Poland stem the pollution created by its coal-operated thermal power stations.

The firm was commissioned by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to assist Poland in combating its pollution problems as part of Japan's Official Development Aid (ODA). It will mark the first time that Electric Power Development, jointly owned by the government and nine elecrtic power utilities, has helped the East European nation fight environmental degradation.

The target of the operation will be the 10 generators at the Kozienice power station with a combined capacity of 2.6 million kilowatts. The station is located 75 kilometers south of Warsaw.

Poland lacks sufficient pollution-control technology, including desulfurization techniques.

The fact that 84 percent of Poland's power generation facilities depend on coal has also greatly aggravated its pollution-control problem, leading to such environmental hazards as acid rain.

The amount of sulfur oxides emited by the Kozienice plant is relatively small. Since the plant is situtated in an area where restrictions are tight, however, it must serve as models for the nation's other thermal power facilities.

Electric Power Development will send technicians to survey the conditions at the plant and later draw up pollution-control plans, including desulfurization techniques, the company said.

Finance Ministry To Ease Rules on Banks

OW2702072891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0632 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 27 (KYODO)—The Finance Ministry will ease regulations banning long-term credit banks and foreign-exchange banks from converting into ordinary commercial banks, as part of its planned overhaul of Japan's financial system, ministry sources said Wednesday.

The sources said the ministry plans to revise by 1993 a long-standing law which restricts mergers of such specialized banks and their conversion into other forms of financial institutions. The move is chiefly intended to facilitate mergers among banks to make them strong enough to survive intensifying competition amid the ongoing financial deregulation.

In a bid to revamp Japan's highly protected financial market, the ministry, in its financial reform package unveiled in January, proposed scrapping the separation of the banking and securities industries after 1993.

These ideas will form the basis for a final report on Japan's financial reform, to be published in June by the Financial System Research Council, which advises the finance minister.

The revision of the law, if realized, will spur restructuring in the country's specialized banking system, created after World War II to ensure a stable supply of funds for trade and long-term investment.

Interest rate deregulation and other dramatic changes in the financial and capital markets over the past few years have greatly undermined the health of such banks with a limited scope of business.

Banks Building Up Reserves Against Bad Loans

OW2702135191 Tokyo KYODO in English 1015 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 27 KYODO—Major Japanese commercial banks are building up reserves for possible bad loans to specified Third World countries following a government decision to lift the current limit on such reserves, banking sources said Wednesday. The sources said the move comes in line with an announcement by the Finance Ministry late last month that it would scrap the current limit on such reserves effective in Fiscal 1990.

Previously, banks had been allowed to set aside up to 25 percent of outstanding loans to specified debt-strapped developing countries for loan-loss reserves.

The sources said each bank is raising the portion of such reserves to 30 percent in preparation of its financial statement for Fiscal 1990, ending March 31, 1991.

Some banks had initially resisted doing so due to funding problems amid the negative business environment as they would have to sell some of their stock holdings. But some of the banks have decided to do so, forcing others to follow suit, the sources said.

With such reserves subject to taxes, a bank with 200 billion yen worth of outstanding loans to such debtor nations would need 24 to 25 billion yen to raise the portion of such reserves to 30 percent.

Report on Energy Issues, Technologies Released

OW2502145691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1054 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Nagoya, Feb. 25 KYODO—Nearly half the world's oil consumption could be saved if Japan transfers its energy-saving technologies to developing countries, Tokai Bank Ltd. said in a report released Monday.

The report, titled "Thinking of Japan's Energy Problem," said developing nations could use Japan's technical edge in energy saving to improve efficiency in energy use and this could save the equivalent of some 1.31 billion tons of oil a day.

The quantity represents roughly half the world's daily oil consumption, it said.

At present, developing nations need three times as much oil as that required by Japan to produce an equal amount in gross domesitc product, the report said.

But the gap, the report said, could be halved if Japan offers its energy-saving technology to these nations.

The report also said Japan has a technical advantage in energy- saving technologies over other industrialized nations and added that the advanced nations could save some 10 percent of present energy consumption if other nations gain the same level of energy-saving technology with that of Japan.

Bank Says Technology Could Decrease Oil Use

OW2502121591 Tokyo KYODO in English 1056 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Nagoya, Feb. 25 KYODO—Nearly half the world's oil consumption could be saved if Japan transfers its energy-saving technologies to developing countries, Tokai Bank Ltd. said in a report released Monday.

The report, titled "Thinking of Japan's Energy Problem," said developing nations could use Japan's technical edge in energy saving to improve efficiency in energy use and this could save the equivalent of some 1.31 billion tons of oil a day. The quantity represents roughly half the world's daily oil consumption, it said.

At present, developing nations need three times as much oil as that required by Japan to produce an equal amount in gross domesitc product, the report said. But the gap, the report said, could be halved if Japan offers its energy-saving technology to these nations.

The report also said Japan has a technical advantage in energy-saving technologies over other industrialized nations and added that the advanced nations could save some 10 percent of present energy consumption if other nations gain the same level of energy-saving technology with that of Japan.

Oil Refiners Boosting Fuel Production Capacity

OW2502102491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0959 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 25 KYODO—Japanese oil refiners are expanding their facilities to produce consumer fuel oil to meet dwindling imports from Kuwait, officials of the Agency of Natural Resources and Energy said Monday.

The agency gave permission for facility expansion in 18 cases applied for by 13 companies since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on August 2, up sharply from only three applications by six companies in the first four months of fiscal 1990, the officials said.

As a result, the total production capacity of such fuel oil as kerosene and gasoline has risen 6 percent from the end of fiscal 1989 to 1.55 million barrels per day.

The oil refiners are boosting production capacity mainly to meet the falling imports from Kuwait due to Iraqi destruction of the country's oil processing facilities.

The Japanese refiners will continue to increase their own processing capacity in fiscal 1991, the officials said.

Japanese refiners have sufficient capacity, at 4.55 million barrels per day, to produce fuel oil, a product primarily for corporate users.

Nuclear-Powered Ship Leaves Port for Sea Trials

OW2502054991 Tokyo KYODO in English 0323 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Aomori, Feb. 25 KYODO—Japan's only nuclear-powered ship, the Mutsu, left its home port of Sekinehama in Mutsu, Aomori Prefecture on Monday to begin a series of sea trials.

The planned yearlong series of trials will be the final experiments on the ship before it is permanently mothballed.

The trials are designed to determine the behavior of the ship's 36,000-kilowatt pressurized water type reactor under differing weather conditions and lay the basis for research into future development of nuclear-powered ships.

The first sea trial is expected to last 15 days. Scientists aboard the vessel will gather data on the reactor's basic functions with the reactor operating at 50, 70, and 90 percent capacity while the ship sails in the Pacific Ocean.

The 8,242-ton ship was given a license certifying the safety of its reactor on February 14, 22 years after its launch in 1969 and 17 years after it developed a radiation leak during its maiden voyage.

Its nuclear reactor was shut down for repairs for 16 years until its restart last March. The Mutsu underwent four reactor tests at sea last year.

Ministry Plans No Further Airline Fare Hikes

OW2602121291 Tokyo KYODO in English 1038 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 26 KYODO—The Transport Ministry will not grant Japanese and foreign airline operators additional fare hikes when the current price agreement expires in April, ministry officials said Tuesday. The ministry allowed airlines to increase fares last December in the face of spiraling fuel prices and sluggish business stemming from the Persian Gulf war.

Under the measure due to expire April 1, international air fares were allowed to go up by 5 percent for flights originating from Japan and 7 percent for those arriving from other destinations. "Another fare increase would further discourage the flying public," an official at the ministry said.

Citing steady demand on domestic routes and the comparatively moderate fuel prices in Japan, the official said, "airlines can operate profitably under the current price structure."

Officials said a decision against additional fare increases will apply not only to domestic airlines but also foreign operators belonging to the International Air Transport Association.

Automobile Exports Increase in January

OW2702135391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0900 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 27 KYODO—Japan's exports of cars, trucks, and buses increased for the fourth straight month in January, as strong demand in the United States and Western Europe more than offset dwindling sales in the Middle East, an industry association reported Wednesday.

The country's overseas auto shipments came to 511,624 vehicles in January, up 1.3 percent from 505,224 in December and a 2.4 percent rise from 499,517 in January 1990, the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association said.

While the Persian Gulf war cast a damper on the region's appetite for Japanese automobiles, the effect of the recession of the U.S. economy on auto demand has not yet been shown in the figures.

"The impact of slower sales in the U.S. market will likely surface one to two months later," an association official said.

Shipments to the United States picked up 6.6 percent to 191,653 vehicles for the fourth consecutive month, while those to the 12-nation European Community (EC) jumped 7.5 percent to 151,029, also the fourth consecutive monthly rise.

Exports to other Asian countries surged an impressive 14.5 percent to 45,744 vehicles, confirming steady auto demand.

In contrast, exports to the Middle East recorded a large 49.7 percent decline to 10,107 vehicles, with exports to Saudi Arabia, the largest market in the area, plunging 34.4 percent to 6,386 vehicles.

The Middle East had been a rapidly growing market for Japanese automakers, with purchases of Japanese auto vehicles rising 27.5 percent in 1990.

Passenger car exports totaled 415,320 vehicles, a 4.7 percent increase. Exports of trucks fell 6.3 percent to 93,445 vehicles, and buses fell 7.6 percent to 2,859 vehicles.

Daikin To Expand Into Fluorine Chemicals Market

OW2702141691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1305 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Osaka, Feb. 27 KYODO—Daikin Industries Ltd. said Wednesday it has launched two new companies to manufacture and sell fluorine chemicals in the United States.

The Osaka-based company said the project will be undertaken through a wholly owned subsidiary and an equally owned joint venture with Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Co. The company said Daikin America

Inc., established in Decatur, Minnesota, will manufacture and market fluorine resin with intermediate materials supplied by the U.S. partner.

The product will be exported to European countries.

The joint venture, MDA Manufacturing Inc., which was also established in Decatur, and Daikin America will jointly build manufacturing facilities at a cost of 21-22 billion yen starting this fall.

Heat-resistant fluorine resin is used in automobile, aircraft, and semiconductor parts.

The United States is the world's largest market for fluorine resin, accounting for more than half the global demand estimated at 80 billion yen a year, the company said.

Daikin currently exports the material from Japan to the United States.

The company said it will aim at initial year sales of 10 billion yen, which will be raised to 15 billion yen in several years.

NTT Develops Largest Optical Memory System

OW2702135591 Tokyo KYODO in English 1116 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 27 KYODO—Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. (NTT) announced Wednesday the development of what it claims is the world's largest optical memory system which can store five million Japanese-language newspaper pages.

The giant domestic telecommunications company said the new system has the capacity to store and retrieve one terabytes of information, equivalent to five million newspaper pages. One terabyte equals one trillion bytes.

Company officials said the new mass storage system has a capacity about 10 times greater than the largest so far developed in the world. The officials said the company plans to market the new system in about one year. They said NTT plans to use the new system for its "Information Warehouse" where color images and other large-volume information will be stored in the future.

The officials said the system using standard optical disks 130 millimeters in diameter, which are available on the market, is compatible with data bases currently in use. They said the optical disk used for the new system will rotate at an ultra high speed, two to three times faster than ordinary disks, to complete the three-stage process of erasing, recording, and writing necessary information in one rotation.

The disk can record necessary information at speeds seven to nine times faster than conventional disks, the officials said. They said the new system can store 1,600 optical disks, each with a capacity of 650 million bytes.

Fujitsu Begins Sample Graphics Chip Shipments

OW2702121691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1110 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 27 KYODO—Fujitsu Ltd. said Wednesday it has begun sample shipments of a single Large-Scale Integrated (LSI) circuit that can compress vast amounts of data required to send and reproduce still color pictures on a computer screen.

The chip, called the MB86356, can compress and code data on a single picture to 1/30 the size of conventional devices today. Sample chip prices will be about 100,000 yen, officials said.

The device also incorporates sequential and progressive reproduction capabilities that copy pictures on displays in 13 seconds, officials said.

In sequentional reproduction, the picture forms on the screen from top to bottom, like scrolling through a document. Progressive reproduction is the development of the whole picture using the total screen space.

Officials said the company plans to adopt the chip for use in its personal computers in the future to develop multimedia applications which combine audio, graphics, and characters.

Fujitsu envisions the chip being used to enable personal computers to link up with a host terminal to reference databases which hold vast amounts of photographs and pictures of famous art works.

Sanyo Develops Single Audio Chip for HDTV

OW2502114491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1119 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 25 KYODO—Sanyo Electric Co. said Monday it has developed a digital audio processing large-scale integrated circuit (LSI) for use with high-definition television (HDTV) sets.

The single chip, called a down converter, can process the same amount of HDTV digital audio information as two of the chips used in conventional sets, company officials said.

The Osaka-based consumer electronics company plans to begin sample shipments of the LSI device in April. Each chip will cost 20,000 yen.

The company will begin mass production of the chip and a digital video processing LSI device that can convert HDTV's 16/9 picture frame ratio to the 4/3 frame ratio of standard TV this fall, the officials said.

HDTV's 16/9 ratio of width to height is closer to the ratio of a movie theater screen than is the 4/3 ratio of standard TV. At present, a HDTV set costs about 4 million yen on the Japanese consumer market.

While HDTV equipment manufacturers are integrating new developments into these advanced TV sets, they will have to come down in price to about 50,000 yen per set before consumers will buy them, the officials said.

Companies Urged To Tap New Labor Markets

OW2202084691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0815 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 22 KYODO—Japanese companies should tap new labor markets of women, the elderly, and foreigners to tide over the increasingly acute shortage of working hands, the Japan Productivity Center said Friday.

In an annual white paper on labor-management relationship, the center said that in a society whose population is rapidly aging, Japanese corporate managers are facing an ever-worsening labor shortage, with the country's labor force expected to grow at a paltry 0.2-0.4 percent annual clip over the next decade.

Under particular threat are smaller firms. Of the 27 million workers of Japan's small firms with less than 30 employees, and nonfarm independent company owners and their employees, nearly five million will shift to bigger companies in search of higher pay and shorter working hours, the report said.

In view of the bleak outlook, companies should exploit more the untapped market of women and the elderly, and try to be less labor-intensive, while the government should relax its regulation of immigrants to facilitate a further inflow of foreign workers to Japan, the center said.

With the present cycle of economic growth in its fifth year, the labor shortage has become increasingly evident. Unemployment hit a 10-year low in 1990, averaging 2.1 percent against 2.3 percent a year earlier, a government study found.

Average overall employment in 1990 totaled 62.49 million workers, up 1.21 million, or 2 percent from the previous year, and the biggest increase since 1955. The figure indicates that an average of 140 jobs were chasing every 100 job seekers.

Cutting Distribution Costs Said Key to Profit

OW2202084091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0655 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 22 KYODO—Cutting distribution costs is the best way for companies to raise profits, Mitsubishi Bank Ltd. advised in a report issued Friday.

Officials of the bank said the labor shortage, which they said is the main cause of the higher distribution costs in Japan, is unlikely to ease soon, so increasing efficiency in distribution is what companies will have to focus on.

The report said land transportation costs, which account for most of the distribution costs of private firms, rose 6.1 percent last year on a yearly basis, or up 2.2 percentage points compared with the growth rate in 1989. Warehousing, and loading and unloading costs went up by 6.9 percent, or 3.0 points higher than in 1989.

The bank projected higher distribution costs will lead to declines in profits in fiscal 1990 for firms in the petrochemical, cement, and paper industries.

The report cited one company in the information machinery business which established an ad hoc section to deal with rationalizing distribution costs.

North Korea

Editorial Views Combat Mobilization Posture

SK2802062691 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0010 GMT 28 Feb 91

[NODONG SINMUN 28 February editorial: "Let Us Assume a Thoroughgoing Combat Mobilization Posture To Cope With the New War Provocation Maneuvers of the U.S. Imperialists and Puppets"]

[Text] In defiance of the unanimous protest and denunciation of all Korean people and peaceloving people of the world, the U.S. and South Korean warmongers began the adventurous Team Spirit-91 joint military exercise, thus leading the situation on the Korean Peninsula to the brink of war.

This exercise is being staged for 3 months, from late January to late April. Not only U.S. troops in South Korea and the puppet army but also an enormous number of troops from U.S. bases on the U.S. mainland and in the Pacific region are mobilized in this exercise. In addition, nuclear-equipped warships, nuclear-loaded airplanes, various missiles, and numerous most modern war equipment are also mobilized.

During this war exercise, major offensive operations including a joint landing operation which is aimed at our Republic, a river-crossing operation, a commando operation, an aerial mobilization strike operation, and a nuclear bomb-dropping exercise are to be staged.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: The Team Spirit joint military exercise, which the United States has staged each year as an annual event in South Korea since 1976, is a preliminary war and test nuclear war aimed at launching a preemptive strike on the northern half of our Republic.

The Team Spirit joint military exercise staged each year by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique is a very dangerous thing, like playing with fire, that takes the northern half of our Republic as the target of attack.

Because of the adventurous Team Spirit-91 joint military exercise, dark clouds of nuclear calamities today are, in actuality, hanging over the heads of our people, and an emergency situation in which a new war may break out is being created in our country.

Because this year's Team Spirit-91 joint military exercise is being staged after the declaration of an emergency wartime system in South Korea by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique, and the placing of U.S. troops and the puppet army on an emergency mobilization posture prompted by the Gulf war, this has an unprecedentedly grave and dangerous nature.

Furthermore, we are forced to heighten vigilance against the alarming moves of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets to use the discrepancy in the strength of the armed forces, which was caused by our voluntarily cutting 100,000 troops, for their impure aims.

Prompted by the outbreak of the Gulf war, the U.S. imperialists and the No Tae-u group have driven all of South Korea into practically a wartime state. No one can guarantee that they will not trigger a northward war of aggression on the Korean Peninsula by assembling an enormous number of troops on the pretext of joint military exercise.

To cope with the grave situation in which the danger of a new war actually prevails in our country due to the recklessly provocative military maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique, the supreme commander of the Korean People's Army [KPA] handed down an order to the Army, Navy, Air Force of the KPA, all units of the Korean Security Forces and all members of the Worker-Peasant Militia and the Red Youth Guards to assume a thoroughgoing combat mobilization posture with heightened revolutionary vigilance. Officers and men of the KPA and Korean Security Forces were made fully ready for emergency mobilization at any time.

This is a legitimate self-defense step to cope with a possible surprise attack by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique. This is an expression of the firm position and determination of all the people and revolutionary armed forces to defend the sacred land of the fatherland and their socialist system from the enemy's invasion.

Proceeding from a sense of the important responsibility assigned by the nation and from the lofty sense of duty for the cause of global peace, our party and the government of the republic consistently made every sincere effort to resolve the Korean issue in a peaceful manner through dialogue and negotiations.

In the last few years alone, we have taken the initiative in assigning the People's Army soldiers to peaceful construction and in unilaterally reducing troops by 100,000. At the same time, we have put forward many peace proposals, including comprehensive peace proposals, with a view toward adopting a nonaggression declaration between the North and South, to sign a peace agreement between Korea and the United States [chomisaie], for drastically reducing the armed forces in the North and the South, and for phased withdrawal of U.S. troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea.

Moreover, we put forward again at last year's North-South high-level talks realistic proposals designed to substantially remove the state of military confrontation on the Korean Peninsula, including the nonaggression question, in addition to our strong calls for stopping the Team Spirit joint military exercise, which has a grave impact on the situation on the Korean Peninsula.

In particular, at the outset of this year, we put forward new proposals for national reunification, including one that aims at ensuring peace on the Korean Peninsula and at providing the peaceful conditions for national reunification, and once again called on the South Korean authorities to accept, without hesitation, our proposal for adopting a nonaggression declaration between the North and South and to discontinue the Team Spirit joint military exercise being conducted with the U.S. imperialists.

If the United States and the South Korean authorities are interested in the question of peace on the Korean Peninsula, they should at least have taken such measures as either completely discontinuing the Team Spirit joint military exercise as we demanded, or temporarily suspending it for a few years, at least while the North-South high-level talks are under way.

Nevertheless, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique, ignoring our repeated calls, put the Team Spirit-91 joint military exercise in motion. This is an open challenge to our Republic and people, who are making every sincere effort possible for national peace and peaceful reunification of the country, as well as a deliberate provocation that threatens peace on the Korean Peninsula and that undermines peace and stability in the world.

Assuming the war commotions kicked up by the U.S. imperialists and the No Tae-u ring are intolerable acts that destroy peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and in the world at large, we resolutely denounce them in the name of all the fellow countrymen.

The Team Spirit-91 joint military exercise, an outcome of the U.S. imperialists' aggressive strategy toward Korea and Asia, is an aggressive war exercise aimed, from start to finish, at provoking a full-scale nuclear war against our Republic. It is also an extremely dangerous military adventure that jeopardizes peace on the Korean Peninsula and threatens stability in Asia and the world at large.

Attempting to invade the whole of Korea using South Korea as a military beachhead and, going one step farther, dominate Asia and the world is the immutable ambition of the U.S. imperialists.

The Team Spirit joint military exercise, which was started in the mid-seventies by the South Korean puppets and the U.S. imperialist aggressors, who have turned South Korea into the Far East's largest nuclear forward base with about 1,000 nuclear weapons deployed in it, keeping U.S. troops stationed there, and have continued conducting the exercise even in 1991, the second year of the nineties. This is an expression of a criminal plot to trigger a nuclear war on the Korean Peninsula at all costs.

As was clear when the No Tae-u ring said that South Korea's participation in the war in the Gulf was to lay the foundation for collective security to mete out punishment in an emergency, the U.S. imperialists are determined to start a war in the Far East and realize their aggressive ambitions for our Republic with the united forces of the international reactionaries.

The frantic war commotions kicked up by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are an extremely dangerous game of playing with fire, whose aim is to trigger a nuclear war on the Korean Peninsula to block the door to peace and peaceful reunification indefinitely and to wipe out our Republic.

The new bud for detente has disappeared from the Korean Peninsula and an extremely dangerous situation capable of lighting the fuse to the powder keg now prevails there.

Because of the war exercise commotions kicked up by the U.S. imperialists and the No Tae-u ring, all the talk between the North and the South, including the North-South high-level talks, have reached a grave crisis and our just and fair proposals that have unfurled a bright future for all the fellow countrymen, as well as efforts to realize these proposals, have been challenged.

Facts show that the Team Spirit-91 joint military exercise, conducted by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets, is a premeditated move in a bid to ignite a war in our country by every means, by checking peaceful reunification and dialogue between the North and the South, by disturbing the peace on the Korean Peninsula, and by straining tension.

Such a prevailing situation demands that our revolutionary armed forces and the entire people rally rock solid around the party and the leader. In addition, this situation demands that they keep themselves in full readiness for combat mobilization to thoroughly smash the enemies' move to kick off a war.

The three services of the KPA, all units of the Korean People's Security Forces, all members of the Worker-Peasant Red Guard, and the Young Red Guard should deeply cherish in their hearts the order of the supreme commander of the KPA. They should keep themselves in full combat mobilization with a high degree of revolutionary vigilance. By so doing, they should solidly defend the land, sea, and sky of our chuche fatherland.

All party members and the working people should uphold the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's New Year address, and effect once again a new leap in socialist construction with a firm posture and a readiness for mobilization. By so doing, they should smash those who perpetrate a provocation.

The South Korean people should unanimously turn out to the struggle to check the criminal attempt of the U.S. imperialists and the puppets. This is because, by forcing the Team Spirit-91 war exercise, they try to return to the notorious Yusin System and the Fifth Republic; to bridge over their political crisis; to check peace and peaceful reunification; and to ignite a internecine war by any means.

We love peace and do not want a war.

If the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets persistently follow the road of a war of aggression, mistaking our peace-loving efforts for a sign of weakness, our revolutionary armed forces and the entire people will rise as one man and firmly defend the socialist system and the precious gains of the revolution, which have been won with blood.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets should look straight at the situation and act with discretion. They should act at once stop the Team Spirit-91 nuclear war exercise.

If the rascals, regardless of our warnings, persistently ignite the flash point of a northward war, they will pay dearly for it.

Only victory and glory will always be in store in the future for our people, who vigorously fight for the complete victory of socialism and for the independent and peaceful reunification of the fatherland, under the wise leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

NODONG SINMUN: Team Spirit 'Test Nuclear War'

SK2802112591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1001 GMT 28 Feb 91

["Test Nuclear War Against North"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang February 28 (KCNA)—The large-scale "Team Spirit" joint military exercises are a preliminary war, test nuclear war against the northern half of Korea aimed at executing the U.S. imperialists' global strategy, says NODONG SINMUN today in a signed article entitled "Test Nuclear War Against North."

It says: The "Team Spirit" is a combined offensive war game which is being staged by the U.S. imperialists under a scrupulous plan to unleash a nuclear war in Korea.

They chose the Korean Peninsula as "an area of first priority" for the use of nuclear weapons and openly prattle that they do not rule out the use of nuclear weapons in case of war in Korea. It is clear that if a war breaks out in Korea, it will be easily escalated to a global nuclear war.

What the United States seeks is to light the train of a nuclear war in Korea, expand it to the continents and thus realise its wild ambition for world supremacy.

The U.S. imperialists are pretending to have got any stake in peace of Korea, raising a hue and cry over "disarmament" and "detente". This is a crafty ruse to realize their aggressive design without much difficulty by concealing the dangerous nature of their nuclear war moves and disarming people ideologically.

They do not hesitate to invade other countries, behaving more arrogantly and recklessly by taking advantage of the imbalance of forces in the international arena.

They ordered their Armed Forces stationed in South Korea into a top emergency alert posture and made the puppets declare an emergency wartime system in South Korea with the outbreak of the Gulf war.

The "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises being staged under these circumstances are fraught with a latent danger of a war breaking out any moment.

In face of the obtaining situation the supreme commander of the Korean People's Army issued an order to the entire units of the Korean People's Army, the Korean People's Security Forces, all the members of the Worker-Peasant Red Guards and the Young Red Guards to take a position of combat mobilisation. This is a legitimate self- defensive step to counter the aggressive moves of the enemy.

The U.S. imperialists must stop at once the provocative "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises and withdraw all their troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea.

Letters View Preparations for Mobilization

SK2802113691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1017 GMT 28 Feb 91

["Korean Working People and Soldiers Resolve To Keep Themselves Ready for Mobilization, Work and Live With Militancy"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang February 28 (KCNA)—The Korean working people and People's Army soldiers are firmly determined to smash any reckless moves of the enemy at one stroke upon receiving the order of the supreme commander of the Korean People's Army [KPA] to all the units of the KPA and the Korean People's Security Forces and all the members of the Worker-Peasant Red Guards and the Young Red Guards to keep themselves in full combat preparedness against the new war provocation moves of the United States and the South Korean authorities.

Letters containing their resolutions are carried in NODONG SINMUN and other newspapers here.

In a letter, Yi Ho-ung, vice-chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal Administration and Economic Guidance Committee, said:

The order of respected comrade supreme commander is a self-defensive measure to counter the new war provocation moves of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities and a manifestation of the unswerving stand and determination of our revolutionary Armed Forces and the entire people to defend the socialist motherland and gains of the revolution from the aggression of the enemies.

With no amount of desperation and moves can the enemy frighten our people.

If they pounce upon us, they will be beaten down as in the 50's.

Working people in the capital are operating their machines and carrying on the socialist construction with such confident attitude.

Just is the struggle of the Korean people to frustrate the new war provocation moves of the U.S. imperialists and their stooges and defend the socialist motherland and the priceless revolutionary gains.

Yi Chon-il, chief secretary of the party committee of the Komdok Mining Complex, had this to say:

We will intensify the drive for large-scale mining, transportation and disposal in mineral production in the spirit of smashing the reckless war rackets of the enemy.

When the whole country and the entire people press ahead with the socialist construction in the spirit of annihilating the enemy, keeping themselves in full combat preparedness, any new war provocation moves of the enemy will end in failure. Kim Song-kyo, an officer of the Korean People's Army, said: The Korean people love peace and do not want confrontation and war.

However, if the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities persistently take the road of war of aggression, mistaking our peaceloving efforts for a sign of weakness, our revolutionary Armed Forces and entire people will rise as one in the struggle to defend the inviolable socialist motherland and the priceless gains of the revolution.

Our People's Army, the Army of the party and the leader, will safeguard the inviolable socialist homeland and the precious revolutionary gains with their lives in any adversity.

Yun Song-kwan, chief of the Worker-Peasant Red Guards of the Kim Chong-tae general electric locomotive works, said: Upon receiving the order of comrade supreme commander, the members of the Worker-Peasant Red Guards of our works are keeping themselves in full combat readiness, keenly following every move of the enemy who are resorting to reckless military provocation moves.

If the U.S. imperialist aggressors and the South Korean authorities dare to ignite a war, we members of the Worker-Peasant Red Guards will turn out as one man to beat them down at one stroke and defend our inviolable motherland and revolutionary gains at the risk of our lives.

Pyongyang Rally Denounces Team Spirit-91

*SK2802112891 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1028 GMT 28 Feb 91*

[Text] Pyongyang February 28 (KCNA)—A Pyongyang mass rally was held at the Pyongyang indoor stadium this afternoon to denounce the "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique. Present at the rally were Pak Song-chol, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and vice-president; Yun Ki-pok, secretary of the WPK Central Committee and other senior officials and people of various strata in the city, more than 10,000 all told.

Kang Hui-won, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice-premier of the Administration Council, spoke at the rally. Recalling that the supreme commander of the Korean People's Army [KPA] on February 26 issued an order to all the units of the three services of the KPA and the Korean People's Security Forces and all the members of the Worker-Peasant Red Guards and the Young Red Guards in face of the grave situation created on the Korean Peninsula by the "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises, the speaker said: The order is a legitimate self-defensive measure to shatter in advance the sinister war provocation scheme of the aggressors; it is a manifestation of the unshakable will and revolutionary stand of our people and the People's Army to mete out punishment to the enemy with a decisive counter blow, if they dare ignite a war. The danger of the "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises being staged by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities is getting all the more pronounced because they are timed to coincide with the anti-communist confrontation racket of unprecedented dimensions in South Korea occasioned by the Gulf crisis. No one can vouch that the U.S. imperialist aggressors who are becoming more arrogant with the changes in the international relations and the No Tae-u group driven into a serious crisis will not turn the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises into a real war to invade the northern half of Korea. The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities are forcing the aggressive "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises in a desperate effort to break up the North-South dialogue, cast a chill over the atmosphere of national unity created with so much efforts and aggravate the situation on purpose and thus block the massive struggle of the people for independence, democracy and reunification. On no account can it be allowed that our motherland is laid waste in a nuclear war provoked by the U.S. imperialists and all the fellow countrymen suffer from its disasterous scourge, Kang Hui-won said, and continued: The U.S. imperialist aggressors and the South Korean authorities should immediately discontinue the aggressive military manoeuvres, mindful that there is a limit to our patient efforts. The entire people in the northern half of our Republic will defend the socialist homeland and the gains of revolution like an impregnable fortress by keeping themselves in full preparedness to smash in time any provocation of the aggressors with a high degree of revolutionary vigilance in face of the new war provocation manoeuvrings of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities against us, he stressed.

Then followed speeches of representatives of workers, agricultural working people, students and men of culture. The speakers strongly demanded in unison a stop to the war racket threatening peace in our country and warned that if the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities dare start a war of aggression, our people and our revolutionary armed forces will reliably safeguard the socialist homeland and the gains of revolution and make a thousand-fold retaliation on the aggressors.

Iranian Parliamentary Delegation Arrives 27 Feb

*SK2702064291 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0539 GMT 27 Feb 91*

[Text] Pyongyang February 27 (KCNA)—A parliamentary delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran led by Speaker Mehdi Karrubi arrived here this morning for an official goodwill visit to Korea at the invitation of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK.

Many working people in the city warmly welcomed the goodwill envoys of the Iranian people at the airport.

The delegation was met by Vice-President Pak Song-chol, Chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly Yang Hyong-sop, officials concerned, the Iranian ambassador to Korea and his embassy officials.

A function took place at the airport in welcome of the delegation.

Attends Welcoming Party

*SK2802090391 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1517 GMT 27 Feb 91*

[Text] Pyongyang February 27 (KCNA)—The Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] of the DPRK arranged a party this evening in welcome of the Korea visit of the Iranian Parliamentary delegation led by Speaker Mehdi Karrubi. Invited there were speaker Mehdi Karrubi, members of the delegation, and the Iranian ambassador to Korea. Present there were Vice-President Pak Song-chol, Chairman of the SPA Yang Hyong-sop, Vice-Chairman of the SPA Paek In-chun who is chairman of the parliamentary group of the Korea-Iran Friendship Association, Minister of External Economic Affairs Chong Song-nam, Minister of Commerce Han Ang-kun, First Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Sok-chu, Vice-Minister of People's Armed Forces Kim Kwang-chin and others.

Yang Hyong-sop made a speech at the party. He said the delegation's visit to Korea clearly shows that the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the peoples of the two countries are further expanding and developing with the passage of time. He noted that the Iranian people under the correct guidance of Said 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Revolution, are registering enormous achievements in the struggle to defend the gains of the revolution and in the postwar reconstruction and the fulfilment of the First Five-Year Plan, courageously smashing the U.S.-led imperialists' moves of aggression and intervention against Iran. We regard the achievements of the Iranian people as our own and believe that they will make a greater success in the future struggle, he said, and continued: Today world peace and security are gravely endangered by the imperialists' moves of aggression and war. From the outset of the Gulf crisis, we opposed Iraq's invasion and annexation of Kuwait and demanded the withdrawal of the Iraqi troops from Kuwait. At the same time, we opposed the war started by the United States after massing armed forces in this region, taking advantage of the Gulf crisis. Some days ago, President Saddam Husayn clearly manifested the position that Iraq would unconditionally withdraw its troops from Kuwait. This provided a good opportunity of ending the war and peacefully solving the Gulf crisis. But, the United States escalated the war into ground battles, aggravating the Gulf crisis. We hope that all military actions will be stopped at once in this region and the Gulf crisis be solved peacefully as soon as possible. The Iranian Government and people are making their best to end the war and ensure a durable peace and security in the Gulf. We express firm solidarity with them. We actively support the five-point peace plan advanced by respected Your Eminence Speaker Mehdi Karrubi to end the Gulf war. Yang Hyong-sop denounced the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets for putting South Korea under an "emergency wartime system" with the outbreak of the Gulf war and extensively staging the "Team Spirit 91" joint military maneuvers. The adventurous "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises of the United States and the South Korean authorities have created a grave situation in our country where a war may break out. In view of this situation the supreme commander of the Korean People's Army [KPA] issued an order to all units of the three services of the KPA and the Korean People's Security Forces, the members of the Worker-Peasant Red Guards and the Young Red Guards to keep themselves in full combat readiness with heightened revolutionary vigilance. This is a legitimate self-defence step to cope with the moves of the United States and the South Korean puppets to provoke a new war. If the United States and the South Korean authorities start a war of aggression against our Republic, our revolutionary armed forces and the entire Korean people will rise as one man and fight in defence of the inviolable socialist motherland. With no desperate offensive can the enemy break the stamina of our people singleheartedly united behind the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and dear Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Yang Hyong-sop concluded:

We will make all efforts as ever to further consolidate and develop the friendly and cooperative relations in accordance with the spirit agreed upon by the leaders of the two countries.

Speaker Mehdi Karrubi spoke next. Noting that the relations between the two countries have rapidly expanded and developed since the victory of the Islamic revolution, he said the historic Korea visit of his Eminence Ayatollah Said 'Ali Khamene'i, the great leader of the Islamic revolution of Iran and the then president of Iran, brought about an epoch-making turning point in the development of the relations between the two countries. He continued: The common anti-imperialist stand and mutual respect maintained by the governments of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in their foreign policies are a factor of further strengthening and developing the relations between the two countries. The struggle of the two peoples against imperialism consolidates the common front of the two countries, Iran and Korea. Heroism, self-sacrifice and independence represent the stamina of the two peoples who showed staunch will in the struggle against foreign aggression. The objective of the struggle for improving the livelihood of all nations is in the hands of all nations. The independent nations should cooperate with one another and take sanctions against great powers so as to strangle them. We think that the cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the DPRK is a patent model for relations and cooperation between independent countries. Pointing out that over the last decade since the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran, the Iranian people have made great achievements in their just struggle, he said: Today all sorts of intrigues of the imperialists against the sacred lands of Moslems are being intensified, but no intrigue and pressure can break the firm will of our great Iranian nation. We affirm that we will maintain our independence and our firm independent ideology and vigorously advance along this road. The Iranian parliamentary speaker stressed in conclusion: We will make all our efforts to provide opportunities of peace and justice in the international community. To this end, we will continue our efforts to solve the Gulf crisis and constantly seek a peaceful way to put an end to the aggression within the framework of the United Nations Security Council. We hope that the Korean Peninsula will be reunified and the great Korean nation will make progress and development and live in peace. The policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is that Korea's reunification should be realized in any case in accordance with the will and desire of the Korean nation. The excellent ties of friendship between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the DPRK will further expand and develop.

The party proceeded in a friendly atmosphere. Prior to the party, Vice-President Pak Song-chol and Chairman Yang Hyong-sop met and had a friendly talk with the Iranian parliamentary delegation which paid a courtesy call on them.

Attends Banquet

SK2802123491 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2300 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Excerpts] Yesterday evening at the People's Palace of Culture, the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] arranged a banquet for the Islamic Republic of Iran's parliamentary delegation, which is paying an official goodwill visit our country. [passage omitted]

Vice President Pak Song-chol; Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the SPA; Paek In-chun, vice chairman of the SPA and chairman of the Korea-Iranian friendship parliamentary group; Chong Song-nam, minister of External Economic Affairs; Han Chang-kun, minister of Commerce; Kang Sok-chu, first vice minister of the Foreign Ministry; Kim Kwang-chin, vice minister of the People's Armed Forces Ministry; and other functionaries concerned participated in the banquet. [passage omitted]

Praises Bilateral Ties

LD2702220391 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] During a meeting with Korean First Vice President Pak Song-chol, Islamic Consultative Majlis Speaker Karrubi held talks on bilateral ties and the Persian Gulf crisis.

According to a report by the central news unit, Pak Song-chol expressed his appreciation for the sincere efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the Persian Gulf crisis.

Referring to the good and expanding ties between Iran and Korea, Karrubi said: We will never forget the good and positive stand the DPRK has adopted over the years since the revolution. He said: We want to expand relations between the two countries; we expect Korea to engage in cooperation with us during the reconstruction era of Iran.

According to our reporter's dispatch, Karrubi took part in a dinner reception hosted by Korea's first vice president and speaker of the People's Assembly in honor of the Iranian parliamentary delegation. Referring to the expanded ties between the two countries since the Islamic revolution and the important visit of Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, to Korea, Karrubi called for the exchange of more delegations between the two countries. He also called for expansion of bilateral ties.

The speaker of the People's Assembly of Korea referred to the common stands of the two countries on international issues and called for expanded cooperation between the two countries' parliaments.

Papers Welcome Delegation

SK2702074291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0601 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Pyongyang February 27 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN and MINJU CHOSON today come out with editorial articles warmly welcoming an official goodwill visit to Korea by a parliamentary delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran headed by Speaker Mehdi Karrubi at the invitation of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK.

The editorial article of NODONG SINMUN says: Korea and Iran established friendly relations long ago and have supported and cooperated with each other, and they are now growing stronger and developing in the common struggle against imperialism and for independence. The current visit to Korea by the Iranian parliamentary delegation well shows the daily deepening relations of friendship and cooperation between the two peoples. The Iranian people who love justice and value peace overthrew the tyrannical monarchy which imposed all sorts of humiliation and poverty upon them for a long time through an all-people uprising on February 11, 1979 and won victory of the Islamic revolution. This was a significant event which marked a new epoch in their history. Vigorous efforts to consolidate the economic foundations of the country and improve the material living standards of people are now being made in Iran. The Iranian people are steadfastly following the road chosen by them without vacillation, smashing persistent interference and obstructive moves of the imperialists. The Iranian Government is developing friendly relations with other countries on the principle of non-alignment and actively supporting the people's struggle for national independence and sovereignty against imperialism. Iran is striving for peace and security in the Middle East and Asia. Both Korea and Iran are Asian countries and member nations of the Non-Aligned Movement. The two peoples are closely linked with each other for their common desires for independence against imperialism, and the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries are developing favourably day by day. We believe that the visit of his eminence speaker of the Consultative Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Iran to our country this time will be an important occasion in deepening understanding and trust between the two governments and peoples and developing their friendly and cooperative relations. The Korean people express the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between Korea and Iran forged under the banner of anti-imperialist independence will further expand and develop in the future, says the editorial article of MINJU CHOSON.

O Chin-u Meets Iranian Defense Minister

SK2802112291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1039 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] Pyongyang February 28 (KCNA)—Minister of People's Armed Forces O Chin-u today met and had a friendly conversation with Iranian Minister of Defence and Logistics Akbar Torkan and his party who paid a courtesy call on him.

Present on hand were Vice-minister of People's Armed Forces Kim Kwang-chin and Iranian ambassador to Korea Hasan Dabir and the military attache of the embassy.

South Scored for Obstructing North's Relations

SK2702075991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0604 GMT 27 Feb 91

["Impudent Behavior"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang February 27 (KCNA)—The South Korean authorities are these days engaged in clumsy underhand lobbying in a bid to keep countries from improving relations with the DPRK in real earnest. They are busying themselves with visiting those countries which want to improve relations with the DPRK and trying to dissuade them, decrying the system of the DPRK and asking them to remain faithful to their "moral duty" as "friendly nations" and claiming that "priority should be given to the signing of the nuclear safeguards accord."

It is the '90s, not the '70s or the '80s. Yet the South Korean authorities are obstructing the development of relations between states, dividing countries into "friendly" and "hostile" nations in a far-fetched manner. This is an act of refusing to discard the outmoded viewpoint of the era of cold war, says MINJU CHOSON in a commentary today.

It is natural that such impudent behavior should invite ridicule and rejection from the countries concerned, the news analyst says, and goes on:

It is as clear as noonday why the South Korean authorities resort to such perverse acts as shouting themselves hoarse about the question of signing the nuclear safeguards accord, slinging mud at our system, in a bid to bar the improvement of relations between our country and other countries.

What social system a country maintains is a matter of freedom of choice and, accordingly, trying to snag the improvement of relations with other countries, taking issue with our social system chosen by our people themselves, is a thousand and one times unjustifiable act which will go down with nobody.

Although they are now using the question of our signing the nuclear safeguards accord as a main "trump card" in putting a spoke in the wheel of the development of relations between ours and other countries, the South Korean authorities are not in a position to do so.

While enshrining the U.S. nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea as a god-send, they, in cahoots with the United States, have the cheek to take issue with us over the question of signing the accord. This is, indeed, the height of folly.

They openly contend that the U.S. nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea are "conducive" to peace and security on the Korean Peninsula as "a war deterrent" and, accordingly, they must be left intact.

To begin with, the claim that the U.S. nuclear weapons serve as "a war deterrent" on the Korean Peninsula is a boloney which can be uttered only by the South Korean authorities. According to their "logic," global peace will be ensured only when all countries have nuclear arms.

Even though they are human beings living under the nuclear umbrella of the United States they should refrain from impudently mocking the world people, bereft of national conscience and lost to reason.

As we have already declared, we see no need to produce nuclear weapons, nor are we capable of its production.

We only raised the question of removing the nuclear threat from the United States as a precondition for us to sign the accord, urged by a sincere desire to save our nation from nuclear war.

If the South Korean authorities want to style themselves Koreans who are concerned for the destiny of the nation at all, setting aside reason, they will be well-advised to get the U.S. nuclear weapons withdrawn from South Korea before groundlessly taking issue with us and, thus, make a contribution, if only a little, to ensuring security for our nation.

We hope the South Korean authorities will look foursquare at the reality and act with discretion before it is too late.

Koreans in Japan Propose Joint Cheering

SK2802113391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1008 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] Pyongyang February 28 (KCNA)—The Hokkaido headquarters of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) proposed to the "Mindan" side to give joint cheer of Chongnyon and "Mindan" to the Korean players from the North and South who will participate in the international Winter Universiad to be held in Sapporo, according to a "CNS" [Choson News Service] report from Tokyo. In this connection the representatives of Chongnyon consulted with the representatives of "Mindan" on Feb. 20. At the consultative meeting representatives of Chongnyon explained the purport of organizing joint cheer for the players from the North and the South and put forward a concrete proposal to solve the matters arising in the cheer including flag and song.

KCNA on DLP Members' Involvement in Suso Scandal

SK2702114191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1004 GMT 27 Feb 91

["DLP Bosses in Trouble"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang February 27 (KCNA)—The bosses of the "Democratic Liberal Party," [DLP] a private political party of No Tae-u, have been driven to a tight corner as it is becoming clearer that the "DLP" group is the chief culprit of the Suso housing scandal, a radio report from South Korea said. As is known, the "co-chairmen" of the "DLP" first denied that they had signed a report related to the privileged distribution of housing lot in Suso district. However, they admitted the fact later as a new light was thrown on the background of the scandal amid strong public protests in South Korea. As a result, the "DLP" is suffering a bitter affront. Kim Yong-sam and Kim Chong-pil, though, have not officially expressed their position while admitting their involvement in the Suso housing scandal. While admitting that they signed the controversial report, they claim that they were no more than a customary signature in an attempt to evade their responsibility. Their shameless acts bring into bold relief again their true colour as old hands at treachery. Misbehaviour eventually catches up with one. Although "Chongwadae" [South Korean presidential offices] and the "DLP", the headquarters of the irregularities of the "Sixth Republic," regard crafty and shameless political tricks and fascist clubs as a cure-all, they can no longer conceal their ugly color.

Hanminjon Releases Information on Central Meeting

SK2602160691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1522 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Pyongyang February 26 (KCNA)—Following is the information on an enlarged meeting of the Standing Committee of the Central Committee of the South Korean National Democratic Front (Hanminjon) which was distributed at a press conference held at the Hanminjon Mission in Pyongyang today:

An enlarged meeting of the Standing Committee of the Hanminjon Central Committee was held in Seoul recently.

It analysed and assessed the present political situation prevailing in South Korea and discussed the immediate direction of the National Democratic Movement and its fighting tasks.

It pointed out that the present political situation is characterized by the deepening crisis of the colonial rule consequent on the desperate fascist suppression and war moves of the U.S. imperialists and the No Tae-u group and on the corruption of the political power. It gave an analysis of the grave provocative nature of the "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises being staged at a time when South Korea is entering into a reactionary phase overshadowing the "Yusin" dictatorship, timing to coincide with the Gulf war of the U.S. imperialists, and strongly denounced it.

It noted with high estimation that our people of all strata are fighting with an indomitable will, with the conviction of victory in the movement for independence, democracy and reunification, without the slightest vacillation even under the fast-changing complex internal and external surroundings of the movement for a transformation in South Korea.

The meeting evinced its firm will and determination to cover a glorious road of victory, deeply trusting only the people and sharing sweets and bitters with them even in face of multitudes of trials and difficulties.

Pointing out that 1991 is an eventful year of struggle to secure a springboard for victory in the great decisive battle against the forces of fascism and treachery and open a new horizon of anti- U.S. independence and reunification, the meeting stressed that Hanminjon and all patriotic movement organisations should wage a well-organised struggle to carry the direction and tasks of the National Democratic Movement for this year into practice on the basis of chuche-oriented strategy and tactics and thus create a new epochal phase of changes.

It examined and adopted "the present situation and immediate tasks facing the National Democratic Movement", a document of the Hanminjon Central Committee which was worked out on the basis of the report and speeches.

Drawing attention to the local assembly elections, it also decided to work out and set forth an open letter and slogans of the Hanminjon Central Committee to firmly unite democratic and patriotic forces and lead them to win victory in the elections.

It put forth militant tasks facing Hanminjon organisations at all levels and their members and expressed the expectation that they would play a leading role in the development of the National Democratic Movement.

Organisational matters were discussed and decided upon at the meeting.

Chairman Holds News Conference

SK2702010991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1531 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Pyongyang February 26 (KCNA)—Cho Il-min, chief of the Pyongyang mission of the South Korean National Democratic Front (Hanminjon) [SKNDF], called a press conference for home and foreign reporters today at the building of the mission and distributed to them documents of the Central Committee [CC] of Hanminjon—an information on an enlarged meeting of the Standing Committee of the C.C., Hanminjon and "the present situation and immediate tasks facing the national democratic movement".

He told the reporters that the enlarged meeting of the Standing Committee of the C.C., Hanminjon was recently held in Seoul and analysed the present situation of South Korea and, on this basis, adopted "The Present Situation and Immediate Tasks Facing the National Democratic Movement".

Outlining the gist of this document, he said that the main characteristic of the present situation is the creation of a new crisis of the colonial fascist rule. The general goal of the national demoratic movement in 1991 is to deal a decisive blow at the U.S. imperialist colonial fascist ruling forces and vigorously struggle to open up a new era of independence, democracy and national reunification, he said, and went on:

The task arising in the anti-U.S. struggle this year is to wage a struggle against the U.S. interference in the internal affairs and its support to the dictatorship, the opening of the market to imports and the "Uruguay Round" and for the return of the commandership of the Army, the withdrawal of the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons, for the frustration of the plot of permanent division and the anti-war, anti-nuclear peace movement on a nationwide scale and thus escalate the anti-U.S. struggle to a mass movement for national independence in all fields including politics, economy and military.

And the task arising in the anti-dictatorship struggle this year is to totally isolate the "Democratic Liberal Party regime" and constantly expand the struggle to abolish the evil laws and dismantle the repressive tools and thus create a condition for the resignation of the No Tae-u "regime".

The task arising in the national reunification movement this year is to expose the No "regime's" plot for the "unified channel of dialogue" and the reactionary nature of the "argument for the unifcation of systems", check and frustrate the north-south confrontation and the moves for the permanent division and incorporate efforts for reaching a nationwide agreement on the reunification through confederation.

Noting that to strengthen Hanminjon immediately leads to the development of the national democratic movement, he referred to the tasks clarified to this end in the document of the C.C. Hanminjon "the present situation and immediate tasks facing the national democratic movement". Cho Il-min answered questions put by reporters.

KCNA Details Documents

SK2702125091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1055 GMT 27 Feb 91

["Hanminjon Outlines Immediate Tasks Facing National Democratic Movement"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang February 27 (KCNA)—"The present situation and immediate tasks facing the national democratic movement", a document adopted at an enlarged meeting of the Standing Committee of the Central Committee of the South Korean National Democratic Front (Hanminjon), was distributed at a press conference held at the Hanminjon mission in Pyongyang on February 26.

According to the document, the main characteristic of the present political situation is that the U.S. imperialists and the No Tae-u group are hell bent on anti-popular, anti-democratic fascist violence and anti-national, anti-reunification separatist scheme and, subsequently, the worst ruling crisis is becoming all the more pronounced.

The unremitting, courageous anti-American, anti-dictatorship struggle of our people and the sentiments for reunification through alliance with communism and the North which are growing stronger throughout South Korea have plunged the colonial military dictatorship into the helpless defensive and confusion.

South Korea is virtually under an undeclared martial law rule and the situation is entering into a reactionary phase overshadowing the ill-famed "Yusin" dictatorship.

The "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises being staged under the circumstances where an "emergency wartime system" was declared and the U.S. forces present in South Korea and the whole army are put in an "emergency mobilisation posture" are a perilous war game motivated by the reckless multiple war strategy of the U.S. imperialists to spread the flames of war in the Middle East to the Korean Peninsula and thus unleash a second Gulf war.

Hanminjon and the people of all walks of life should harden their indomitable will and conviction of certain victory, get prepared actively for the fast-changing situation with the change of the dictatorship of the "sixth republic" just around the corner and bring an epochal phase favorable for anti-U.S. independence and reunification, the document says, and continues:

The general goal of the national democratic movement for 1991 is to deal a decisive blow at the colonial fascist ruling forces and vigorously struggle to open up a new epoch of independence, democracy and national reunification.

Tasks arising in the anti-U.S. struggle for independence this year are to wage a struggle against interference in our internal affairs, any backing to the dictatorship, market-opening and the "Uruguay Round" and for the return of the commandership of the Army, the withdrawal of the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons, for the frustration of the plot for permanent division and the anti- war, anti-nuke peace movement on a nationwide scale and thus escalate the struggle to a mass movement for national independence in all fields including politics, the economy and military.

Of particular importance here is to expand the anti-U.S. struggle in depth and scope with an all-round exposure of the essence of the U.S. colonial domination and its backing to the dictatorial "regime".

The basic task arising in the anti-dictatorship struggle for democracy this year is to remove the power foundation of the No Tae-u "regime" and check and frustrate the plot of the pro-U.S. fascist forces for long-term office through a nationwide march for democracy involving the people of all walks of life.

A task in the movement for national reunification this year is to decisively smash the No "regime's" "unified channel of dialogue" formula and check and frustrate the moves for North-South confrontation and permanent division and thus open up a new horizon of reunification.

The main content of the struggle against "unified channel of dialogue" should be the release of reunification champions and guarantee of the right to North-South contact and dialogue of nongovernmental dimension, and the struggle against the political and military confrontation between the North and the South should be focused on the adoption of a nonaggression declaration, putting up slogans for the abolition of the "National Security Law", an end to the anti-North confrontational system, a halt to the "Team Spirit" and other military manoeuvres and arms buildup, the denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula and against South Korea's "unilateral entry into the United Nations".

Especially, a task in the movement for national reunification this year is to expose in an all-round way the anti-national essence of the "unification of systems" argument of the No "regime" and decide upon the way of reunification through confederation and reach a nationwide agreement on it.

All the movement organisations and hardcore elements and pathfinders should read with avidity works of the great President Kim Il-song and dear Secretary Kim Chong-il, the originals of the chuche idea, taking them as a textbook for awakening the people and widely disseminate them among the masses, the document stresses.

The document refers to the tasks facing the working class, peasantry, youth and students, intellectuals, religionists and people of other strata and calls upon all the movement organisations and the people of all walks of life to rally into one with the common goal of independence, democracy and national reunification, transcending differences in party affiliation, political views and isms and achieve unity of faith and will based on independence.

Artist Explains 'Defection' From South

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[Text] Pyongyang February 28 (KCNA)—Yun Ki-kwon, 29, who was an artist of the Hyundae Theatre in Kwangju, South Korea, came over to the northern half of the country some time ago, while on a foreign tour. After finishing a high school, he had served in the puppet army and worked as a theatre artist in different places of South Korea. Explaining the motive of his defection he said that he gained a correct knowledge of the reality of the North, listening to the radio of the North from long ago.

He said he learned well that under the leadership of the great President Kim Il-song all the working people in the North are making devoted efforts for the prosperity of the country and the nation and the peaceful reunification of the country as masters of the country.

I realized that my hope could not be realized in the South Korean society and I longed for the North more intensely as the beacon of hope, he said.

Pak Song-chol Speech at Memorial Meeting

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[Speech by Pak Song-chol, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) and DPRK vice president, at a central memorial meeting held on the 40th anniversary of the death of Kim Chaek at the 8 February Cultural Hall—live]

[Text] Comrades:

Achievements and exploits of numberless communist revolutionaries, who have devoted everything to the victory of the revolution, are embroidered in the glorious fighting history of our people, who have waged a protracted and arduous struggle for independence under the banner of the great chuche idea.

Comrade Kim Chaek, an indomitable communist revolutionary fighter, is also recorded in the shining list of the revolutionary martyrs and heroic fighters who enjoy their eternal lives in the memory of the party and the people.

It is 40 years since Comrade Kim Chaek, the most loyal revolutionary fighter of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and an excellent activist of our party and state, left us.

Marking the 40th anniversary of the death of Comrade Kim Chaek, a model communist revolutionary who devoted his entire life only to the fatherland, the people, and the victory of the revolutionary cause pioneered by the leader, our people reverentially reflect upon his noble revolutionary spirit and exploits.

On 14 August 1903, when the maneuvers of the Japanese imperialist aggressors to occupy Korea were becoming full-blown, Comrade Kim Chaek was born to a poor peasant family in Haksong County, Kim Chaek City of today, in North Hamgyong Province.

Having left his home town and moved to the eastern province of China with his parents as a child, he suffered all kinds of maltreatment and pain while working as a servant of a landlord. In this course, Comrade Kim

Chaek harbored a burning hatred of the Japanese imperialist aggressors and the exploitive society, acutely felt the ordeals of the nation, and embarked early upon the road of struggle.

As a middle school student, Comrade Kim Chaek formed an underground anti-Japanese organization, worked for it, and energetically conducted the work of disseminating the anti-Japanese patriotic and progressive idea among youths.

In the course of fighting, he was arrested by the Japanese police and suffered imprisonment for several years in the Sodaemun Prison, Seoul. After that, he continued revolutionary activities and was arrested again and sent to prison in Jilin. Nevertheless, he did not give up his revolutionary obligation, but resolutely fought against the enemy.

Having inevitably suffered harsh ordeals at the first step of his struggle though he embarked upon the road of the revolutionary struggle with the will for national liberation, Comrade Kim Chaek was seriously shocked by the fact that the nationalistic movement and the early communist movement in our country were undergoing bitter pain and turns and twists because there did not exist an outstanding leader. This spiritual [words indistinct] made him earnestly anxious for a great leader who would deliver the fatherland and the nation from crises.

For this reason, the fact that great Comrade Kim Il-song began to pioneer the way for a national revival with his extraordinary wisdom and outstanding leadership by taking the lead in the Korean revolution with the aspirations of the times and the ideal of (?mankind) was an epoch-making turn in the life and struggle of Comrade Kim Chaek as well as of all genuine revolutionaries of Korea.

Having had a deep insight into the restrictions of the preceding nationalistic movements and the early communist movement by embarking upon the road of the revolution early and having pioneered a new breakthrough in the revolution while nurturing a new generation of communists, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song formed the Down-with-Imperialist Union in 1926 and thus opened a way for the independent development of the Korean revolution. At the historic Chialun Conference in the 1930s, he presented the chuche-oriented lines of the Korean revolution, thus indicating a clear road for developing our people's anti-Japanese struggle for national liberation to a new higher stage.

After that, Comrade Kim Chaek joined in the rewarding struggle for the glorious chuche revolutionary cause led by the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song and fought in the ranks of the sacred struggle for national liberation by taking part in the anti-Japanese armed struggle led by the great leader.

Having been able to find the genuine road for the revolution and to fight with the most correct guidelines under the wise leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, Comrade Kim Chaek, from the initial period of the armed struggle, actively worked to defend the unity, cohesion, and purity of the Korean communist movement centered on the respected and beloved leader and to rally all revolutionary forces around the leader.

Convinced that the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's lines of the armed struggle was the only way for liberating the fatherland, Comrade Kim Chaek applied himself to preparations for the anti- Japanese armed struggle in the area of northern Manchuria. As an excellent political and military cadre of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army, he adroitly organized and commanded numerous campaigns according to the respected and beloved leader's strategic and tactical policy and dealt a serious political and military blow to the Japanese imperialist aggressors, thus greatly contributing to expediting the victory of the anti-Japanese armed struggle.

Comrade Kim Chaek, who returned home and began to work under the direct leadership of the great leader as the country was liberated, upheld the respected and beloved leader's historic tasks of building the party, the country, and the Army and devoted his resourcefulness and energy to the struggle to discharge them.

Upholding the great leader's lines of building a chuche-oriented party, Comrade Kim Chaek actively took part in the work of building it. He also resolutely struggled against the subversive maneuvers of the class enemy at home and abroad and the counterrevolutionary moves of all types of heterogeneous elements, including factionalists and sectionalists.

After the party was founded, Comrade Kim Chaek actively struggled to defend great Comrade Kim Il-song politically and ideologically, to strengthen the organizational and ideological basis of the party, and to defend the unity and cohesion of the party ranks.

Upholding the great leader's policy of building a people's government and regular revolutionary armed forces, Comrade Kim Chaek devotedly participated in the work of implementing it. Also, he spared no efforts to successfully carry out the land reform and other democratic reform projects.

As the first principal of the Pyongyang School and vice chairman of the North Korean People's Committee before the republic was founded and as vice prime minister and minister of industries after its founding, Comrade Kim Chaek upheld the great leader's revolutionary lines and energetically struggled to achieve the prosperity and development of the country and the reunification of the fatherland.

During the period of the heated Fatherland Liberation War to defeat the armed invasion of the U.S. imperialists, Comrade Kim Chaek thoroughly implemented the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's original strategic and tactical policy by displaying a high sense of devotion and sacrifice as a key member of the Military Commission and frontal commander. As a result, he greatly contributed to guaranteeing the victory of the war.

On 31 January 1951, during the period of the heated Fatherland Liberation War, Comrade Kim Chaek, who had been resolutely struggling to implement the leader's lines and policies with a high sense of loyalty and extraordinary energy as an endlessly loyal revolutionary fighter of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, regrettably devoted his life at the age of 47 without seeing the victory of the war and the reunification of the fatherland of which he was convinced and for which he longed.

Although Comrade Kim Chaek, who had steadily traversed along the single road of the revolution while upholding the leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, did not live long, his life was a shining life which clearly showed the loftiest ideological and spiritual traits of a communist revolutionary fighter endlessly loyal to the party, the leader, the fatherland, and the people.

Highly assessing the revolutionary life of Comrade Kim Chaek, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: His struggle in Manchuria, the first imprisonment in Seoul, his return to the organization and struggle after the release from prison, the second imprisonment in Jilin, and the guerrilla struggle after that—these are very touching and glorious scenes of a revolutionary's life.

Indeed, Comrade Kim Chaek's revolutionary life was that of an invincible heroic fighter and genuine communist revolutionary who devotedly struggled exclusively for the revolution and the freedom and happiness of the people.

Along with the arduous but glorious path of the Korean revolution, Comrade Kim Chaek was a model of a genuine communist revolutionary fighter who grasped the truest stance and viewpoint toward the leader of the revolution and devoted his loyalty to the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song in a single-hearted manner.

Comrade Kim Chaek's loyalty to the respected and beloved leader was the purest, the most sincere, and ever-lasting loyalty. Based on his lofty loyalty was his absolute respect and trust and boundless reverence of the great leader. Comrade Kim Chaek's boundless trust and respect of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song stemmed from his invariable faith that only the leader's idea and leadership can save the fate of the nation and give the fatherland and the people a bright future.

When Comrade Kim Chaek, who was fighting as the commander of a big unit far from headquarters during the period of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, met the great leader, whom he had never forgotten for even a moment amid bloody battles day and night, he said: There is nothing we want more. What we wish is to die in fighting as General Kim Il-song's fighters.

With these remarks Comrade Kim Chaek uttered what was deep in his heart; they manifested his firm faith that he was nothing but a fighter of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, the national hero and lodestar whose appearance our people had long awaited with ardent wishes. Also, his remarks were overflowing with a sense of lofty obligation of the fighter who never forgot for even a moment the benevolence of the leader who opened a wide road for revival to 20 million fellow countrymen in a sea of blood and assigned those who were at a loss where to go to the road of genuine revolution and struggle by transcending differences in their ideas and beliefs.

Proceeding from this faith and obligation, he upheld the respected and beloved leader. For this reason, Comrade Kim Chaek was anything but shaken in his attitude of being a loyalist, but devoted everything to the struggle to realize the idea and leadership of the respected and beloved leader.

When the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song founded the Fatherland Restoration Society and issued the 10-point program of the society, Comrade Kim Chaek was firmly convinced that it was the only grand revolutionary program for leading the cause of national liberation to victory by uniting all fellow countrymen under the banner of national liberation. In addition, though he was seriously wounded in a campaign and was undergoing medical treatment, Comrade Kim Chaek, out of his single-hearted aspiration for informing the masses of the program, directly carved the 10-point program on a wooden plate and carried out the work of publishing and circulating numberless copies. This shows well how devotedly Comrade Kim Chaek turned out in the struggle to thoroughly implement the respected and beloved leader's chuche-oriented revolutionary lines and strategic and tactical policy toward the Korean revolution.

The sincerity and firmness of Comrade Kim Chaek's loyalty and faith in upholding the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song were well shown when he met a functionary after he returned to the homeland after the liberation and told him: Our functionaries, as the fighters of the great leader, should be sincere workers who genuinely uphold the leader. We should not follow the habit of upholding him superficially and just with words. In other words, we should be functionaries upholding him in a hearty manner.

The course of Kim Chaek's activities after the liberation was a process of struggle, in which this life-long faith was put into practice without deviation, and of days in which he led the life of a loyalist with such an outlook on life.

Indeed, Comrade Kim Chaek was a communist who, proceeding from the lesson from our country's communist movement and his experience in the revolutionary struggle, more keenly felt our nation's luck of upholding the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Il-song, the peerless patriot and great man. Also, he was a revolutionary fighter who upheld the dignity and authority of the great leader at the highest level and assisted the leader's work with his soul and body.

He not only devoted his loyalty to the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song in a single-hearted manner, but also did his best to have all people highly admire and uphold him as the eternal sun of the nation and the great leader.

Even in the complicated period during which numerous projects for building a new fatherland after the liberation were raised in succession, Comrade Kim Chaek, like the new generation of young Korean communists in the initial period of our revolution, paid particular attention to the work of composing the immortal song extolling Gen. Kim Il-song, the ever-lasting legendary hero. This has deeply moved our people generation after generation.

Regarding the work of composing a revolutionary song to praise the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, the lodestar of liberation and the sun of the nation, as the loftiest duty assigned to him, Comrade Kim Chaek told functionaries one day in the spring of 1946 that composing a song praising the respected and beloved leader was the task assigned to the Korean communists and the nation and that if this task was not discharged, no one could say before the people, the times, history, and descendants that he has fulfilled his obligation and mission as the leader's fighter.

After that, he met an enthusiastic revolutionary poet ardently revering the great leader and earnestly requested him to write a song that everyone could sing in praise of our sagacious general. He then actively encouraged and helped the poet to write the song, telling the poet of the great historic cause of creation and explaining to him the direction of creation while staying with him in the woods of Mt. Haebang for a week. As a result, the words which deeply touch many people were finally written. With these words added to an excellent melody, the immortal revolutionary song "General Kim Il-song" was perfected and came to powerfully reverberate in the world.

The creation shortly after liberation of the long epic "Mt. Paektu," which our people love, also resulted from the noble loyalty and energetic efforts of Comrade Kim Chaek, who actively worked to disseminate the greatness of the leader of the revolution, upholding him.

Comrade Kim Chaek's loyalty of holding in high esteem the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song was finely manifested in his routine work and activities.

During the days when the untrodden road of building the country was pioneered, Comrade Kim Chaek met the great leader many times a day and received his teachings. Every time he met the great leader, he showed the greatest reverence and respect for him. For example, when he received a phone call from the great leader, he stood up and respectfully received it in the same manner as he would directly receive his directives. When he was sick in bed, he used to stand up to receive the leader's visit and greet him in a tidy uniform.

Through his personal example and practical struggle, Comrade Kim Chaek showed our people in a hearty manner how the revolutionary fighters should uphold their leader.

Comrade Kim Chaek was a genuine revolutionary fighter who thoroughly implemented the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's teachings with the spirit of absoluteness and unconditionality and an indefatigable communist fighter who unreservedly showed his loyalty to the leader through his devotion to the revolutionary cause.

Regarding Comrade Kim Chaek as his active aide and reliable comrade and trusting his high sense of responsibility for carrying out the revolutionary cause, the great leader used to give him grave tasks. Every time he was given these assignments, Comrade Kim Chaek regarded them a glory and an expression of the great leader's great trust, unconditionally accepted them without taking into account whether conditions were favorable or not, and devoted his efforts to discharging them. Also, he excellently performed all tasks in a timely manner with a high sense of responsibility.

The first duty Comrade Kim Chaek was assigned by the great leader in the homeland after liberation was to prepare for founding the party in a local area.

When he was dispatched to Hamhung, factionalists and sectionalists disregarded even the basic morals of a human being, failed to provide lodging for him, who had fought in the sacred war for national liberation, shedding blood, and tenaciously hindered his work.

This notwithstanding, Comrade Kim Chaek overcame whatever difficulties and obstacles with the stout will of a revolutionary, crushed the maneuvers of all types of rabble and antiparty elements to destroy the revolution, energetically conducted the work of strengthening local party organizations according to the respected and beloved leader's original policy of building the party, and thus, actively contributed to successfully realizing the cause of founding our party.

Upholding the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's wise policy of building our people's regular armed forces, Comrade Kim Chaek devoted great efforts to nurturing military and political cadres needed to build the regular army.

As the first principal of the Pyongyang School, the first base to train military and political cadres in our country, Comrade Kim Chaek directed all efforts at recruiting students, building school buildings, and other projects for founding the school. In addition, he grudged no efforts to strengthen political and ideological indoctrination among students and bring up competent military and political cadres by establishing chuche in military education.

Indeed, Comrade Kim Chaek played a great role in bringing up military and political cadres of the regular armed forces to defend the fatherland and the people shortly after liberation, thus actively contributing to implementing the great leader's policy of founding the Army.

The devoted spirit and creativity which he showed in the struggle to implement the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's teachings and the party's policy, their embodiment, were fully displayed in the struggle for industrial construction aimed at laying a self-reliant foundation for the national economy after the liberation in our country where nothing existed, as the Japanese imperialists had destroyed everything.

The responsible duty of guiding industrial construction was very unfamiliar and a heavy task for Comrade Kim Chaek, who had neither experience of economic guidance nor knowledge of economic management.

Furthermore, it was only too difficult to assume responsibility for and carry out industrial construction under the circumstances in which no industrial foundation existed and there was a shortage of materials, capital, and national technological cadres.

However, Comrade Kim Chaek unhesitatingly countered and surmounted all obstacles in the untrodden way of building the country with firm conviction that no matter how grand and arduous industrial construction tasks may be, there would be nothing he could not do as long as there existed the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's leadership and the boundless strength of the popular masses upholding the leader.

He went deep to the production sites where the working class labored, widely explained the respected and beloved leader's lines and policies of building a new fatherland, and found ways for solving problems and resolved them one by one while working with the working class.

Comrade Kim Chaek worked in an active manner, upholding the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's lines of building a new fatherland. This was well shown by the fact that he deeply grasped the great broad-mindedness and wise policy of the respected and beloved leader who fully trusted intellectuals and led them to a patriotic way, found and rallied technological intellectuals scattered across the country, and actively encouraged and helped them to work at important posts of the construction of a new fatherland according to their capabilities.

Because there were such functionaries endlessly loyal to the leader and the revolutionary cause as Comrade Kim Chaek when all types of impure elements were running wild and when there were few prepared cadres loyal to the party shortly after liberation, the respected and beloved leader-led grand cause of building the party, the country, and the Army was successfully carried out. These great achievements he attained in the course of building the country brilliantly shine in our people's history of building a new fatherland.

The spirit of absoluteness and unconditionality which Comrade Kim Chaek showed in executing the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's teachings, orders, and directives was displayed in a lofty manner during the period of the grim Fatherland Liberation War, which was to determine the fate of the country.

During the days of the heated and miserable war, Comrade Kim Chaek realistically fought to implement the great leader's strategical and tactical policy, assuming the heavy post of a frontal commander.

In the period of a temporary strategic retreat, the great leader assigned Comrade Kim Chaek the grave combat order of strengthening the defense of the area around Pyongyang to counter the enemy's desperate offensives and of securing time. Thinking not of the difficulty of the duty but of its importance, Comrade Kim Chaek was firmly resolved to unconditionally execute Comrade Kim Il-song's order, formed a new defense line, organized a heroic defense battle, and commanded the campaign, fighting with the fighters in the heights onto which enemy shells were falling.

Whenever unit commanders advised him to move to a secure position, Comrade Kim Chaek did not leave the battle site, saying that where he fought was the post which the comrade supreme commander assigned to him, and successfully carried out the battle duty assigned by the great leader.

Indeed, Comrade Kim Chaek did not show even an inch of deviation and flexibility in his stand and attitude of implementing the leader's idea and teachings and the party's decisions and directives. He was an adroit revolutionary commander who finely discharged all tasks with high creativity and organizational ability. Furthermore, Comrade Kim Chaek was a resolute communist revolutionary with a strong organizational and disciplinary spirit.

Comrade Kim Chaek, who had constantly disciplined himself through an organizational life by early involving himself in a revolutionary organization, had a higher revolutionary organizational spirit and led his work and life in a disciplined and orderly manner.

Every time and under whatever circumstances, Comrade Kim Chaek did not arbitrarily decide on a raised problem, nor did he deal with it as he pleased. He used to report to the great leader even trivial matters in his work and personal life and deal with them according to the leader's conclusions.

Comrade Kim Chaek not only showed examples of a high sense of responsibility and a disciplinary spirit in carrying out revolutionary tasks, but directed his men to repeat what he ordered to check whether they had grasped it. Also, he directly inspected the performance of duties of his men and ordered them to thoroughly again discharge what had left much to be desired.

Since everything in his work and life was consistent with a high organizational and disciplinary spirit, every work that Comrade Kim Chaek organized was thoroughly carried out in a substantial manner and his life was always orderly, simple, and frugal.

Comrade Kim Chaek also followed the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's revolutionary and people-minded work method and style and his lofty communist virtues and thoroughly embodied them in his work and life.

Bearing deep in mind the great leader's teachings that our functionaries should work as the people's true servants who defend their interests and struggle for their happiness, Comrade Kim Chaek gave priority to the interests of the people and devotedly struggled for them both in the period of the arduous anti-Japanese armed struggle and in the days of the construction of a new fatherland.

At a time when everything was lacking during the early days of founding the country, Comrade Kim Chaek calculated in detail the nation's property and capital, indoctrinated the functionaries to save even a penny, and did not allow them to use large amounts of steel materials or cement except for a specified purpose or the allotted quantity.

When he visited the plants and enterprises he did not just indifferently pass by even a piece of steel plate or useless materials were piled up in the grounds, but correctly established measures for their use and created a strict system and order of supplying the materials and managing the property. Therefore, he made it possible that not a penny was wasted in the property of the nation and the people.

When he went down to the production sites he always wore working clothes, worked with the workers, held discussions with them, visited the places where the workers were working and living, and understood their difficult situations, thus working to resolve these situations within his ability. When the functionaries were indifferent toward the lives of the workers, he struggled without the slightest tolerance and corrected them.

Comrade Kim Chaek's lofty people-oriented trait was clearly seen when he endlessly cared for and treasured the revolutionary comrades. However difficult it was, he did not take care of himself but gave priority to the revolutionary comrades and cared for them as if they were his own brothers. Comrade Kim Chaek's love toward the revolutionary comrades was a warm, revolutionary, and fundamental love.

He regularly indoctrinated the comrades to prevent them from making mistakes. On the other hand, he strictly criticized them when something went wrong in their work and lives and corrected the mistakes.

Just as the lofty people-oriented trait was shown by the great leader, Comrade Kim Chaek, in the relationship with the people, was always modest, unceremonious, and knew not of bureaucratism.

In everyday life he did not seek even a small privilege or benefit. He lived just like the lower functionaries and shared their happiness and sorrow, without ever leaving a gap between the upper and lower classes.

He always drew a strict line between public and private matters and always thoroughly yielded to the revolutionary work regardless of his own interests. By upholding the lofty intention of the great general, he threw himself into finding the children of victims who were sacrificed during the war. However, he delayed the task of finding his beloved children who were lost in the vast Manchurian land where he had carried out the revolutionary struggle. Nevertheless, he never talked about the pains he was going through with the comrades with whom he worked.

From the position and attitude of upholding the revolutionary leader, Comrade Kim Chaek was a true chuche-type communist revolutionary fighter who was a magnificent model for the commanding members of the revolution and all the revolutionary soldiers in terms of the struggle spirit and trait, organizational spirit and disciplinary character, and the work method and work style of fulfilling the teachings of the great leader.

From the first days of the anti-Japanese revolution, he only highly upheld the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Il-song as the center of unity and leadership without the slightest desire for honor or fame and devoted his life in the struggle for the fatherland and revolution. Regrettably, during the arduous war period of liberating the fatherland, Comrade Kim Chaek passed away after leaving the words that the leader must be upheld all the more at a time when there is great difficulty because of the war.

When the great leader heard the sad news that Comrade Kim Chaek had suddenly passed away, the great leader's shock and sorrow was immeasurable. Comrade Kim Chaek had abandoned his family and children for the revolution and moved towards the road of the struggle and devoted his life to the country's liberation and in the cause to establish a new fatherland. He also worked night and day looking forward to the day of victory amidst the flames of the war to achieve the liberation of the fatherland, and he was overfilled with militant might and enthusiasm.

The great leader, being unable to repress his regrets and sadness, went to the place where the casket of the deceased was laid, in spite of the perils of enemy airplanes. He repeatedly called out the name of his beloved fighter who was lying in silence.

When the casket of Comrade Kim Chaek was being taken to the graveyard, the respected leader personally carried the casket at the van and grieved over the final farewell to his fighter, who would never return, stroking his tombstone for a long time.

The great leader missed him so much even after having given him as much love as he could. In order to permanently commemorate the revolutionary life and achievements in the struggle of Comrade Kim Chaek, the great leader saw to it that a city, plant, and school were named after him. On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Republic, the great leader awarded the title of Hero of the Republic to Comrade Kim Chaek. He also saw to it that Comrade Kim Chaek's bronze statue was set up in Kim Chaek City, thus extending great benevolence.

The respected leader ordered a half-length statue of Comrade Kim Chaek to be set up in the Taesongsan revolutionary martyrs' tomb. Even today, the respected leader always recalls Comrade Kim Chaek and points to him as an example when he talks about the revolutionary outlook and noble trait which our functionaries should cherish.

Indeed, Comrade Kim Chaek's whole life was a valuable one of a man who was once forsaken and haunted with the sorrow of a homeless race in the past and who sought the genuine path of revolution by following the great leader. He grew up and developed to be an indomitable communist fighter. His life was also a brilliant life of the genuine chuche-type communist revolutionary fighter who offered the purest revolutionary conscience, faith, and loyalty to the revolution's leader, who supported, fostered, and led him on the road of revolution.

Comrade Kim Chaek was sacrificed while fighting by truly upholding the leader of the revolution and by dedicating everything to the fatherland and to the people until the last moments of his life. His noble spirit and exploits will be brilliant forever in the proud history of our revolution. His name will be remembered forever by our people in their hearts.

On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the death of Comrade Kim Chaek, an indomitable communist revolutionary fighter, all of our party members and workers, piously recalling his noble revolutionary life, are firmly resolved to prepare themselves to be revolutionary fighters loyal to the party and to the leader by following and learning from his noble revolutionary spirit and example, which are deeply imprinted on the road of the Korean revolution.

Comrades, today all the people are accelerating the new year's march, overflowing with great pride and conviction in victory and upholding the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's New Year address. The nation is seething with our people's vigorous struggle. The entire society is filled with the enhanced revolutionary passion of our party members and workers, who are resolved to offer loyalty and filial devotion to the party and to the leader. They have been endlessly encouraged by the reply letter from dear Comrade Kim Chong-il to the Second Cell party members of the Fifth Bureau of the Korean Central News Agency and to the all comrades of the Korean Literary Production.

Being loyal to the party and to the leader is the revolutionary trait of our people, who always endlessly trust and follow the great leader and our party. This demonstrates the unwavering faith and will of our people to share their destiny with the leader of the revolution, entrusting him with all their destinies and the future, and to tenaciously advance along the road of revolution.

Our people could victoriously carry out the revolution and construction by overcoming all sorts of difficulties without wavering, even amid the complex situation during the past revolutionary period, precisely because they fought with the might of loyalty and of unity and by truly upholding the party and the leader. By firmly fixing their revolutionary outlook on the leader, all party members and workers should become permanent companions of the party and truly loyal subjects and dutiful sons to the party and to the leader. They should more firmly consolidate the unity and cohesion among the leader, the party, and the masses and should excellently fulfill the duties assigned by history and the time.

Today, after entering the second year of the 1990's, we are faced with a glorious task to more highly demonstrate the superiority of socialism in our country by vigorously accelerating the socialist construction.

In his New Year address this year, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song taught: This year we face an important task of highly demonstrating the superiority of socialism in our country by vigorously accelerating the socialist construction in compliance with the demand of the prevailing situation and the development of our revolution. Upholding the banner of the chuche idea, all party members and workers should vigorously carry out the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural—and should effect constant upsurges on all fronts of socialist construction. Thus, we should further consolidate and develop our own style of a socialist system and should more excellently build chuche-oriented socialism on this land in which the people's independent and creative life has fully bloomed.

Today's encouraging realities demand that functionaries in all domains and all units, cherishing such endless loyalty to the party and to the leader as that of Comrade Kim Chaek, should vigorously work to thoroughly implement the party's lines and decisions with the lofty revolutionary spirit and combat capabilities.

All functionaries should do their work in a revolutionary and organized manner by demonstrating lofty revolutionary spirit, party spirit, the working class spirit, and consciousness of the people, just as Comrade Kim Chaek, whose loyalty to the party and the leader was praised as a model. They should lead the masses at the van with their personal examples. They should fulfill the mission as commanding members of the revolution. Deeply cherishing the slogan, "We serve the people," made by our party, they should become genuine people's servants who struggle by dedicating everything to the people.

All party members and workers should cherish the slogan, "We do what the party decides" as their faith, and should make "Hurrah for victory!" continually resound in socialist construction by highly demonstrating the sense of patriotic dedication and mass heroism. Thus, we should make the imperialists' anti-Republic and antisocialist maneuvers powerless and should more highly demonstrate the indomitable nature of socialism in our country.

It is a sacred task in the struggle that our people face to vigorously accelerate the cause of the independent and peaceful reunification of the fatherland. By highly upholding the new national reunificaiton proposal made by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in his New Year address, all party members and workers should crush various disturbance maneuvers of the domestic and foreign splittists and should more vigorously carry out the struggle for national reunification. Thus, we should make this year a historic year for opening a new phase for national reunification.

Only brilliant victory and glory are set on the road of our people, who are struggling under the leadership of the great party with firm faith in our revolutionary cause and conviction in and optimism for the future.

By loyally upholding the leadership of the party and the leader, let us all rise as one in the grand march of rewarding socialist construction to expedite the complete victory of socialism and the independent and peaceful reunification of the fatherland.

KULLOJA 'Special Article' on DPRK Socialism

SK2202124591 Pyongyang KULLOJA in Korean No. 11 Nov 90

[Editorial bureau special article: "Let Us Hold the Banner of the Chuche Idea High and Add Luster to the Superiority of Our Country's Socialism"]

[Text] Socialism has today solidly struck root in our country and is fully displaying its superiority and invincible vitality.

Our country's socialism is the embodiment of the chuche idea and is man-centered socialism. It is the most sound and vital socialism in which the leader, party, and masses are united with one another with a single mind and have formed a strong main force. Our style of socialism is not something given by someone else or something patterned after someone else's style; it is unique socialism which our people have chosen by themselves under the leadership of the party and leader and have established by their own effort in parallel with our country's specific situation. It is the most superior socialism which properly guarantees an independent and creative life of the working people. Our country's socialism has the vitality of eternity and is vigorously progressing along the single road of victory because it is unique and superior socialism. It is basically different from other countries' socialism in its guiding ideology, concept, and method, in the scope and depth of the independence being achieved through it, and in its solidity.

The party members and working people should take pride in the superiority of our style of socialism, which is the embodiment of the immortal chuche idea, and should have confidence in it. They should devote themselves to the struggle to add luster to it.

1. Our country's socialism is superior and unique in its ideological foundation, in the scope and depth of realizing the social human being's inborn demand, and in collective character and solidity.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the Workers Party of Korea Central Committee Political Bureau and secretary of the party Central Committee, has noted: Our style of socialism, in a nutshell, is one established based on the chuche idea—the guiding ideology of our revolution—and is being developed and consummated according to the chuche idea. Our socialism is the most superior chuche-type socialism which excellently embodies man's independent, creative, and collective demands.

In a nutshell, the fundamental superiority of our country's socialism lies in the fact that it is socialism which has embodied the chuche idea and which puts the masses of the people at the center.

The chuche idea is the ideological foundation and guiding principle of our country's socialism.

Each society has a dominant ideology. Thus, the dominant ideology of a society serves as an ideological foundation for that society. Socialism is a society based on the revolutionary ideology of the working class, and the development of socialism is guaranteed by the scientific, revolutionary, and realistic character of the ideology and theory upon which it is based. Accordingly, only by being based on a scientific and revolutionary ideology and theory can superior socialism be established with the most accurate strategic goals and proper lines. Only then can nature be harnessed, society be reformed, and man be remade in line with the independent demand and interests of the working class in order to establish genuine socialism in which the independence of the people is completely realized. At the same time, only by being based on a practical revolutionary ideology and theory can solid and vital socialism be established by developing active strategies and tactics according to historical conditions and by fully mobilizing the revolutionary zeal of the people and their creative positivity. The demonstration of the unique characteristic of socialism, its superiority, and its vitality, after all, depends on how scientific, revolutionary, and realistic the revolutionary ideology is and the theory upon which it is based.

Today, whether we can correctly solve the problem of the socialist ideological foundation is a vital problem of whether we can defend and adhere to the socialist system. Whether we can develop and complete the socialist society is also a fundamental problem for the fate of socialism.

Because we have the great chuche idea, we have brilliantly solved the problem of solidifying and developing the ideological foundation of socialism.

The chuche idea is the most scientific ideology which creatively elucidates the way to realize national liberation, class liberation, and human liberation. It reflects the demands of the new era of history, the era of independence. It is the most revolutionary ideology which thoroughly embodies the working class' natural demand, which is determined to defend man's chajusong and realize it completely. It is the most realistic ideology which directly answers the problem of the fate of the popular masses. It very precisely elucidates the way to pioneer their fate in conformity with the prevailing conditions today. The chuche idea comprehensively incorporates all the theoretical and practical problems arising in the struggle to realize the chajusong of the popular masses and clearly sets forth the scientific, revolutionary, and realistic ideology, theory, and method with which we can entirely complete the socialist and communist cause. Because it has the chuche idea, mankind has the mighty ideological and theoretical weapon that enables it to complete without deviation and vicissitudes the socialist and communist cause. Because of this, the revolutionary idea of the working class has developed to a new higher stage.

The entire course of the Korean revolution has been the course of realizing the chuche idea. It has been a course of building our style of socialism embodying the chuche idea.

Realizing the demand of the chuche idea, our people chose the way to socialism according to their faith. They solved all the difficult and complicated problems arising in the struggle for sovereignty, independence, and socialism under the wise leadership of the party and the leader according to their own judgment, resolve, and strength. They solved them in conformity with our country's specific reality. Our people realized the cause of national liberation and class liberation based on the chuche revolutionary force. They creatively solved the sovereignty problem and the problem of remaking the production relations in the urban and rural areas in a socialist way in conformity with our country's specific reality without imitating others or following the existing formulae. They are waging the struggle to solidify and develop the established socialist system in our own style.

In our country, because the chuche idea is embodied, the main force of the revolution has been strengthened and all the segments of society are being remade in conformity with the demand of the main force. In this way a unique socialism of our own style, the most superior socialism in the world, has been built.

The unique superiority of our style of socialism and its solidity and development come fundamentally from the fact that they are based on, and thoroughly embody, the chuche idea, which is the great revolutionary ideology holding the highest and most brilliant position in the history of mankind and which is the scientific, revolutionary, and realistic ideology, theory, and method of revolutionary guidance.

Our country's socialism is the socialism that comprehensively embodies the natural demand of people who wish to live and develop themselves independently, creatively, and consciously.

The social system is a solid system of order that regulates the people's position and role. The social system consists of men, who are those charged with social relations, as its main force. Because the social system is intended for people and because it should serve people, its fundamental superiority is evaluated and defined by how thoroughly it embodies the natural demand of people as social beings.

The fundamental superiority of our style of socialism and of our country's socialist system lies in the fact that it comprehensively embodies the natural demand of people who wish to live and develop themselves independently, creatively, and consciously.

The most important thing in the intrinsic demands of social men is a political life in which they enjoy genuine political freedom and rights as the true masters of the state and society and they make noble social and political life shine. A political life is the most fundamental field of human life. Through a socialist political life, men realize their political independence and live and develop in conformity with the intrinsic demands of social men.

Today our people freely take part in state management and social and political activities as the masters of the state and society and lead a political organizational life as members of the party and other political organizations.

Through their political life, our people take part as masters in mapping out and executing the policy of the party and the state and realize links of blood with the social and political organic body with the leader at its center and with the party as its mainstay.

Being anxious to enjoy an equal and stable material life is an intrinsic demand of social men. Therefore, whether a social system is superior finds expression in whether it ensures all social members an equal and stable material life.

The socialism of our country fully guarantees a sound and equal socialist material life which contributes to realizing men's independent demands and ensuring their creative activities. Everyone in our country is substantially guaranteed the right to food, clothing, and housing and conditions for them. Everyone is born with the right to food, is supplied with food by the state almost for nothing, and lives even without knowing the word "tax." All workers participate in creative labor for society and themselves with job security according to their capabilities and are given distribution according to the results of their labor. Also, they enjoy additional benefits thanks to the people-minded policy of the state. In our country today, there do not exist the particularly rich, the jobless, and beggars. Everyone equally enjoys a stable material life without any anxiety about his living.

A cultural life constitutes an important sector of social life. Only when men enjoy a sound and rich cultural life along with a political and material life can it be said that they genuinely lead a life meeting the intrinsic demands of social men. Through their cultural life, men increase the consciousness of independence and creative capabilities, possess themselves of lofty spiritual and moral traits, and realize diverse cultural and emotional demands.

In our country, there exists a peculiar system of our own type which brings the true spiritual and cultural life of all social members into full bloom. Our people are the creators and entertainers of a socialist culture and art which conform to the independent aspirations of human beings and our nation's emotions. Also, they fully enjoy a rich cultural and emotional life.

In our country, all people, with the right and freedom of learning, prepare themselves to be new-type human beings, which are developed in all aspects, thanks to the benefit of the free compulsory educational system. In addition, they live happily, enjoying good health and long life thanks to the free medical service system and many other people-minded public health policies. In our country, in which a lofty living standard and sound living style dominate, the people have lofty and beautiful moral traits of independent human beings and hopefully live and struggle with pride in their living and faith in the future, free of all types of social evils.

The intrinsic demands of men for trying to pioneer their destinies and the fate of the world with a high consciousness of independence and with a goal in mind are put into practice in a fine manner in our country.

Today our people's independent ideological consciousness has reached a very high level and has been changed into a revolutionary faith and firm will which no force can break. Because the people, firmly armed with the chuche idea, an independent revolutionary idea, have become the masters of society and the powerful main forces of socialist construction, the socialism of our country is mighty and superior.

The essential superiority of our country's socialism lies in the fact that the people are fully guaranteed social conditions for living and developing in conformity with the independent, creative, and conscious nature of human beings.

The socialism of our country is the most solid and superior socialism in which the collective demands of men have been embodied and thus, the leader, the party, and the masses are united in a single-hearted manner.

Men are social beings who act in social relations with others. Since men, as social beings, can pioneer their destinies only in social collectives, they require collectivism as their intrinsic demand.

Collectivism, which conforms to the intrinsic demands of men, had not become their class ideology and a dominant idea and peculiar ideology of socialist society until the working class emerged on the stage of history. In terms of ideology, socialism is based on collectivism. Apart from collectivism, there is no thinking of the existence of socialism and talking about its superiority.

Collectivism is at the top of a social and political organic body composed of the unity of the leader, the party, and the masses. In a social and political body consisting of the unity of the leader, the party, and the masses, collectivism is manifested by single-hearted unity in which the party and the masses are firmly combined with each other in ideological will and moral obligation with the leader, who represents the will of the social collectives, at the center.

The solidity and superiority of our country's socialism lies in the fact that the leader, the party, and the masses are combined in a single fate in compliance with the nature of collectivism and thus they constitute a social-political body.

The most solid and vital single-hearted unity has been achieved in our country today. The great leader, the great party, and the loyal people share weal and woe with each other in a firm union of blood. And all people think and act with a single mind and intention according to the ideological will of the party and the leader. The leader and fighters, and the party and the people, have been combined with lofty comradeship and revolutionary obligation and have been linked to each other with love and loyalty, thus achieving the most solid and vital single-hearted unity.

As the leader, the party, and the masses are united as a single social and political body in a single-hearted manner, collectivism has reached the highest level and all members of society are fully enjoying as members of social and political collectives a rewarding and priceless life which conforms to their intrinsic demands. The intrinsic demands of men for trying to pioneer their fate and the destiny of the world have been most finely realized in our country's socialism in which the leader, the party, and the masses are united in a single-hearted manner.

Since the party and the leader trust the people and vice versa and the leader, the party, and the masses are united in a single-hearted manner, the socialism of our country is consolidated, mighty, and matchlessly superior.

Indeed, our country's socialism has been established on the basis of the chuche idea, the guiding idea of our revolution, and is developing and being consummated by it. It is also the most superior and solid peculiar socialism of our own type which fully embodies the intrinsic demands of social men.

2. Today we are assigned the lofty task of building better our own type of socialism, which has been pioneered under the banner of the chuche idea and has been consolidated and developed with the chuche idea as a leading guideline, and of giving full play to its superiority.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: "Today we are assigned the honorable task of attaining a new exalted goal of socialism and giving full play to the superiority of our country's socialism by vigorously accelerating the revolution and construction." ("Let Us Further Display the Superiority of Our Country's Socialism," a booklet, p 7)

Inculcating the superiority of socialism of our own style among party members and the working people is an important task to further add luster to it. Generally, cognition becomes not only a premise which leads one to have a correct point of view and position on objects and phenomena, but also the basis which leads one to firmly believe one's cause and to have the firm determination and will to resolutely struggle for it. One's pride and self-confidence in socialism, as well, originate from one's cognition of its superiority. Therefore, only when party members and the working people are deeply aware of the superiority of our country's socialism can they have not only the point of view and position of trying to constantly consolidate, develop, and add luster to the superiority, but also the firm determination and will to devotedly struggle for the grandeur and prosperity of the socialist fatherland.

Party organizations should inculcate in terms of principle among party members and the working people how we have built, consolidated, and developed socialism of our own style, in which the chuche idea has been embodied, under the wise leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and dear Comrade Kim Chong-il; where the characteristics and superiority of socialism of our own style are; and how brilliantly our socialism has unfolded its future prospects.

As in the case of other works, the work of inculcating the superiority of socialism, as well, should be conducted in a substantial manner, because otherwise success cannot be attained.

In the work of inculcating the superiority of socialism of our style party organizations should avoid such a way as merely organizing lectures and study sessions once or twice, but should constantly conduct the work through the content, form, and opportunity of ideological indoctrination work. At the same time, party organizations should not just say that our country's socialism is most superior, but should inculcate in an easily understood manner, showing the fundamental change in the destiny of our people, the various social benefits that our people enjoy in their practical lives, communist policies, and other vivid facts.

To inculcate the genuine superiority of our country's socialism among party members and the working people, it is imperative to inculcate it, showing the reactionary nature and corruption of capitalism.

Today, the imperialists are making frantic efforts to embellish capitalism and to slander and defame socialism. However, the capitalist society is the society for the exploiting class dominated by the capitalist class. It is the unequal society in which the rich become richer and the poor become poorer. The so-called "richness" of capitalism that bourgeois talk about is not only the "richness" in which a handful of capitalists monopolize social assets and live an idle life, without working, but it is also the "richness" that forces the masses of working people to endure poverty and unemployment, to starve to death, to freeze to death, and to endure misfortune and suffering. Socialism is precisely a genuine society for the people where the popular masses live equally and evenly, free from exploitation and oppression, as the master of the state and society. The fundamental superiority of socialism over capitalism lies in the fact that the socialist society is a society in which the inherent demands of social human beings to live independently and creatively have been extensively embodied.

We should inculcate the superiority of socialism, comparing it with the reactionary nature of capitalism, so that we can see to it that party members and the working people have no delusion about capitalism but endlessly hate and look down upon it with class-oriented self-respect and with their sense of the superiority of socialism.

What is important in enhancing the superiority of socialism of our style is to firmly arm party members and the working people with the chuche idea and its embodiment—party policies. Our party's revolutionary ideology, the chuche idea, and its theory, line, and policy extensively elucidate strategies, tactics, principles, and methods necessary for solving all problems—which arise in accelerating socialist and communist construction and in enhancing the superiority of socialism—in conformity with the specific situation of our country and with our own strength. Only when we arm ourselves with the chuche idea and the party's policy and thoroughly safeguard and implement it can we successfully carry out the Korean revolution according to our own style and, thus, more highly enhance the superiority of our country's socialism.

The notion that socialism is superior means that it is ideologically superior, and the notion that our style of socialism is superior is because it is based upon the chuche idea, a man-centered idea. We must lead our officials and workers to have a deep understanding of how great and creative the chuche idea is to ensure that, based upon a chuche-oriented viewpoint, they independently solve all the problems in revolution and construction according to the demands of our revolution and the reality in our country, firmly believe in the socialism of our country in which the chuche idea is implemented, and fight to the end for a victory in the chuche socialist cause without being shaken, no matter what wind may blow.

Firmly maintaining socialist principles and thoroughly relying on socialist methods is an important question in highly displaying the superiority of our style of socialism.

Because a road toward socialism is an untrodden road, there may be unforeseen difficulties or temporary twists and turns in the way of socialism. Also, the conditions and environment of the revolution can change. However, there can be no change in revolutionary principles, positions, and methods, which must be adhered to in building socialism. If we abandon socialist principles because we face difficulties in building socialism, if we are blinded by immediate gains, and if, as a result, we try to solve problems by applying capitalist methods, we will not be able to overcome these difficulties, will harm the innate superiority of socialism and will be in disarray, and may even lose the revolutionary achievements that we have gained by shedding blood. If we make even small compromises or concessions today in maintaining and adhering to socialist principles and methods, we will, tomorrow, submit and surrender to the pressure by the imperialists, and the socialist system itself will be overthrown in the long run. There must be no compromise or concession in maintaining and adhering to socialist principles and methods.

Of course, each form of socialism may have different characteristics depending upon the guiding ideas it relies on and how it is built and developed. However, no form of socialism can exist that does not adhere to such socialist principles as the political leadership of a working-class party and the unitary guidance of a socialist state. The notion that each form of socialism develops with different characteristics and the notion that socialism develops into capitalism are completely different matters. The notion that each form of socialism develops with different characteristics means that, while unchangingly adhering to their working-class nature and revolutionary principles, one builds and develops one's own form of socialism according to one's national characteristics and the actual situation in one's country. If one builds a form of socialism after abandoning fundamental socialist principles, one's form of socialism will become capitalistic, no matter what it is called. Socialism can only be built based upon socialist principles and socialist methods and in compliance with socialism's nature and characteristics. Also, in this way, its superiority can be fully displayed and it can be endlessly developed and consolidated. A genuine road toward fully displaying the innate superiority of socialism can be found in firmly adhering to socialist principles and methods. Also, firmly adhering to socialist principles and methods is a decisive guarantee for gaining an ultimate victory in the socialist cause.

No matter what circumstances may be promoted and no matter which way other people may go, we must go straight along the socialist road, firmly adhere to socialist principles and methods, and vigorously accelerate the completion of the chuche socialist cause.

Scoring new upsurges in socialist economic construction is an important task for more highly displaying the superiority of our country's socialism. Socialist economic construction is a worthwhile task for providing the popular masses with conditions for independent and creative lives, and a sacred struggle to consolidate socialism's materialistic and technological foundation and to conquer communism's materialistic fortress. A socialist system that was built by a socialist revolutionary can only be endlessly consolidated and developed and its superiority and vitality can only be fully displayed based upon a materialistic and technological foundation that is appropriate to such a socialist system.

All officials must take to heart the notion that vigorously accelerating socialist economic construction is a way to display the superiority of our style of socialism, and must score great revolutionary upsurges in all the sectors and units of socialist construction.

A fundamental problem that must be firmly adhered to in endlessly brightening the superior socialism of our style is strengthening the party and increasing its leadership role by all means.

The superiority of socialism is not only related to the system itself but also directly related to the leadership of the working-class party which consolidates and develops this system. Strengthening the party and increasing its leadership role is a decisive factor that consolidates and develops the socialist system and displays its superiority.

Strengthening the party and increasing its leadership role is an important and decisive task that must be carried out endlessly as long as the party exists and as long as the revolution continues. The party's leadership role must be firmly guaranteed throughout the process of carrying out the socialist cause. Whether, after a socialist system is established, the party's leadership is continuously strengthened or weakened and until what point the party's leadership is maintained is a grave question that determines the destiny of socialism and is a vital question that determines successes or failures in the revolution. Only when the party's leadership is strengthened not only during the period when the socialist cause is cultivated and advanced but also during the period when progress is made in building socialism and when the socialist cause is completed, hindrance maneuvers by the class enemy within and without can be resolutely crushed; the revolutionary gains, firmly maintained; and the socialist cause, victoriously advanced and ultimately completed without any deviation or twist and turn.

Weakening the party, harming its leadership role, and abandoning socialist principles is, by nature, a betrayal to socialism and a surrender to imperialism. If the leadership of the working-class party is weakened, disorder and chaos will prevail in society; the class enemy will be rampant; and the wind of bourgeois liberalism will blow. Then, not only will society get sick ideologically and disintegrate organizationally, but also various antirevolutionary, opportunistic trends that distort and negate socialist ideas will emerge, thus challenging socialism. This may, in the long run, bring grave consequences in which the socialist system itself will be eroded and in which socialism will become capitalist. A historic lesson is that strengthening the party and increasing its leadership role even after a socialist system is established is the most important in the socialist cause and a decisive guarantee for completely crushing all sorts of antisocialist trends and opportunism, victoriously advancing the socialist cause, and fully displaying the superiority of socialism.

We must strengthen the party and further increase its leadership role, thus fully displaying the superiority of our style of socialism and further hastening the victory of the chuche socialist cause.

With very bright prospects, our country's socialism in which the chuche idea is implemented is vigorously marching along the single road of victory because of its peculiar characteristics and superiority.

We must continuously consolidate single-minded unity among the leader, the party, and the masses into invincible single-minded unity, vigorously accelerate socialist construction, and endlessly strengthen the political and ideological basis of our country's socialism and its materialistic and economic basis, thus more highly displaying the superiority of our style of socialism under the revolutionary banner of the chuche idea.

South Korea

Government Welcomes U.S. Cease-Fire Announcement

SK2802095191 Seoul YONHAP in English 0916 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 28 (OANA-YONHAP)—The South Korean Government Thursday welcomed U.S. President George Bush's cease-fire announcement as a "resolute decision" and urged the Iraqi Government to accept it.

"Our government is glad to see the Kuwaiti Government and its people, who have suffered from the war, now have liberation and it hopes that peace and stability will be restored in the Gulf region as soon as possible," Foreign Ministry spokesman Chong Ui-yong said.

Envoy To Return to Kuwait 'as Soon as Possible'

SK2802101591 Seoul YONHAP in English 0611 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 28 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Ambassador to Kuwait, So Pyong-yong, will return to the newly liberated Gulf state as soon as possible, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Thursday.

Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok gave the instruction at a meeting attended by senior Foreign Ministry officials, he said.

So has been in Saudi Arabia since Feb. 23 with the Kuwaiti Government in exile to discuss cooperation between Korea and Kuwait. He had returned to Seoul after Iraq invaded Kuwait.

The Korean Embassy in Qatar will send officials to Kuwait to help So, he said.

Government To Provide Chemicals To Clean Gulf

SK2802103291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0600 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 28 (YONHAP)—South Korea will provide Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Qatar each 100,000 U.S. dollars worth of chemicals to clean up the Persian Gulf, which was polluted by Iraqi troops.

The decision came after debate Thursday between the Foreign and Environment Ministries and the Maritime Police.

The Foreign Ministry asked the ambassadors to the three Gulf states for lists of items their host governments want.

Contributions to Mideast Reconstruction Bank Eyed

SK2802050191 Seoul YONHAP in English 0237 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 28 (YONHAP)—South Korea, keenly interested in taking part in post-war rehabilitation in the Gulf, plans to contribute around 1 percent of the total paid in capital if a bank is set up to facilitate the rebuilding, a ranking government official said Thursday.

To that end, the government will consult the United States, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait about Korea's participation in the establishment of the Mideast Bank for Reconstruction and Development, said the official, who wanted to remain anonymous.

The projected bank is expected to be capitalized at 10 billion or 12 billion U.S. dollars, about equal to that of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, he said.

Last April, Korea gave 78 million dollars, or 0.65 percent of its capital, to the European Bank, which is due to open this spring.

A government team, headed by Assistant Foreign Minister Yi Ki-chu, now in the Gulf may discuss with Saudi and Kuwaiti officials on Seoul's participation in the bank, he said.

South Plans To Resume Red Cross Talks With North

SK2802020591 Seoul YONHAP in English 0134 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 28 (YONHAP)—Deputy Prime Minister Choe Ho-chung said Thursday that the government will seek to get stalled Red Cross talks with North Korea moving again soon and exchange visits between members of separated families in both sides of the Korean Peninsula.

In a report to the Advisory Council for Peaceful Unification Policy, Choe, who is also national unification minister, said the South would concentrate on arranging visits to their hometowns in the North for people aged 60 or more if North Korea refused to resume the Red Cross talks.

As a result of Korea's division into capitalist South and communist North at the end of World War II in 1945 and the Korean war (1950-53) between the two sides, an estimated 10 million Koreans belong to separated families.

Since the law on South-North Korean exchange and cooperation was enacted in August last year, some contacts and correspondence between private citizens on the two sides have been made via third countries. He said the government would step up such exchanges.

Another focus of unification policy will be encouraging North Korea to change, open up and guarantee the freedom and rights of its people.

"We will also make best efforts to develop the high-level talks between South and North Korea into a summit," he said.

South and North Korea exchanged members of separated families and folk art troupes Sept. 20, 1985, for the first time since national division, after 10 rounds of Red Cross talks, but subsequent contacts in 1989 failed to realize a second exchange visit because of Pyongyang's refusal at the last moment.

The two sides held three rounds of prime ministerial talks last year and planned the fourth round for Feb. 25 in Pyongyang, but North Korea unilaterally cancelled it, citing the annual South Korea-U.S. Team Spirit military excercises.

Giving the report at a meeting of the council at the Seoul Sejong Cultural Center attended by over 500 members, Choe also heard discussions on countermeasures for political changes in the international arena after the Gulf war, improvement of inter-Korean relations through dialogue and exchange, the impact of Japan-North Korea normalization on the Korean Peninsula and ways of democratizing and opening up North Korea.

North Sends Official Document on Joint Team

SK2802125991 Seoul YONHAP in English 1233 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 28 (OANA-YONHAP)—The North Korean Football Association on Friday sent to its South Korean counterpart an official document to be submitted to international football organizations in connection with an accord on fielding a single Korean team in the Sixth World Youth Soccer Championship.

The document, sent to get the personal signature of the Korea Football Association President Kim Wu-chung, is meant to notify FIFA (Federation Internationale de Football Association) and AFC (Asian Football Confederation) of an agreement to form a single Korean team and ask for their cooperation for it.

The North Korean football association is supposed to deliver the document to the FIFA and AFC chairmen when Kim returns it with his signature affixed.

Koreans in Japan To Cheer for Joint Team

SK2802104691 Seoul YONHAP in English 0836 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] Sapporo, Japan, Feb. 28 (YONHAP)—Backers of South and North Korea living in Japan have agreed to set aside ideology and just be Koreans for a change, cheering all Korean competitors in events held in Japan.

Mindan [South leaning Koreans in Japan] and Chochongnyon [General Association of Korean Residents in Japan], the pro-Seoul and pro-Pyongyang associations of Koreans in Japan, agreed Thursday to allow their members to cheer for any Korean athlete participating in an event in Japan regardless of which Korea they are from.

"Strongly backed by Mindan and Chochongnyon, Korean residents in Japan, irrespective of their affiliation, will organize joint cheering squads for South and North Korean participants in the '91 Sapporo Winter Universiad (opening Saturday) and the world table tennis championships in Chiba in April," a Mindan official said.

A similar reconciliation was reported between the two organizations during the Beijing Asian Games Sept. 22-Oct. 7 last year.

The organizations decided their members will also be allowed to join in joint choruses of the Korean folk songs "Arirang" and "Our Long-Cherished Desire Is Unification" as well as wave the flags of South and North Korea and the unification flag, on which a map of the Korean Peninsula is drawn, the official said.

Joint Teams Foreseen for All Athletic Events

SK2802103691 Seoul YONHAP in English 0622 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 28 (YONHAP)—South and North Korea may compete as one in all international athletic events from now, including the 1992 Summer Olympics in Barcelona and the 1995 Winter Asian Games in North Korea, Kim Chong-yol, chairman of the Korea Amateur Sports Association, said in a statement Thursday.

"It is a triumphant achievement that the two Koreas agreed on all conditions of working-level sports talks in the last two days and that a single Korean team can participate in the 41st World Table Tennis Championships this April in Japan, and the 6th World Youth Soccer Championships in Portugal," said Kim, who is also chairman of the Korea Olympic Committee.

He said the two Koreas had lived up to expectations for reunification and had given hope to all Koreans with relatives on the other side of the border.

"I believe national reunification can be realized if the spirit and will of the people are alive and I sincerely hope the pingpong and soccer teams set a good precedent to make the joint inter-Korean team permanent," he said.

North, South To Discuss Tourism in March

SK2802110091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0741 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 28 (YONHAP)—South and North Korea will hold working-level talks on tourism in Berlin during the International Tourism Fair March 2-7, a government source said Thursday.

Separate from the fair, the talks are to build understanding between the two Koreas and will cover joint development of sightseeing spots and cross-border tours, he said.

Cho Yong-kil, chairman of the Korea National Tourism Corp., will represent the South along with Transportation Ministry officials, and Chae Hwa-sop, vice director of the National Directorate of Tourism, and So Kye-yong, vice president of the Korea International Travel Co., will represent the North.

The ministry first expressed interest in South-North Tourism in a report to President No Tae-u in early 1988, before Hyundai Group founder Chong Cho-yong proposed joint development of Mt. Kumgang.

In recent months, Japanese travel agencies have arranged contacts between Seoul and Pyongyang so Japanese tourists can travel directly from South to North Korea.

Paper Views Japan's Welcome for North Delegation

SK2702054291 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 26 Feb 91 p 2

[Article by administrative affairs reporter Kim Sung-yong from the "Reporter's Memo Book" column: "Japan's Excessive Hospitality Accorded North Korea"]

[Text] "It comes as no surprise that Japan's policy toward the Korean Peninsula is double-dealing." This can be seen in the recent efforts between Japan and North Korea to become closer to each other, even without tracing back to the imperialists' invasion of the Korean Peninsula.

The sight of Japanese politicians exhilarated by the visit to Japan last week of Kim Yong-sun, secretary in charge of international affairs of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK], proves that this is true.

When Secretary Kim and his company arrived in Tokyo on 20 February, such Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] executive officials as Secretary-General Ozawa and Executive Council Chairman Nishioka agreed with the WPK delegation to work out an agreement on cultural, art, and sports exchanges between Japan and North Korea. Contrary to its earlier promise that the WPK delegation would meet only Foreign Minister Nakayama, Prime Minister Kaifu personally met Secretary Kim on the afternoon of 22 February. Former Deputy Premier Kanemaru even had the gall to suggest that he would gladly serve in arranging summit talks between the United States and North Korea for the discussion of whether North Korea will allow an inspection of its nuclear facilities.

Now that negotiations between Japan and North Korea have been begun, the hospitality the Japanese Government and party accorded the WPK was somewhat expected.

What matters now is the attitude North Korea shows toward North-South relations. After announcing that it would not come to the North-South high-level talks scheduled for 25 February, North Korea has devoted itself to a propaganda campaign denouncing the Team Spirit joint military exercise. In a press conference held on 21 February at the Tokyo Press Club, Secretary Kim said, threateningly, that "if South Korea tries to force its system on the North, it runs the risk of war."

Simply put, North Korea's attitude toward the South is exactly the opposite of "substantial progress in South-North relations," which the ROK and Japan have agreed to pursue in North Korean- Japanese talks for normalizing their relations.

What draws our particular attention is the reaction of the Japanese Government to our protest. When asked why it had not consulted in advance with the ROK Government as agreed, the Japanese Foreign Ministry said: "The North Korean delegation's visit to Japan is just a routine informal exchange, with nothing new about it."

"Kaifu met with Secretary Kim as the president of the LDP, not in the capacity of prime minister." The Japanese officials went so far as to defend the prime minister with such a poor excuse, arguing that "the LDP and the Japan Socialist Party [JSP] were competing with each other over relations with North Korea, so the prime minister had to come in between them."

They did not forget to pose as a benefactor: "In meeting with Secretary Kim, Foreign Minister Nakayama made it clear once again that unless North Korea signs the nuclear safeguard accords and improves relations with the South, it cannot hope for any progress in relations with Japan." Even so, the hospitality accorded the North Korean delegation reveals in full the alienation between the Japanese Government's official stand and its conscience.

Takeshita, former prime minister and chairman of the Korean- Japanese Parliamentarian Union, has agreed to visit Pyongyang, while Miyazawa and Watanabe, bosses of the major LDP factions, are lined up for an interview with Secretary Kim. It is not just the LDP. Even the leadership of the Clean Government Party and the Democratic Socialist Party, not to mention the JSP, which has a vested right in Japan's relations with North Korea, have come out in the open to welcome the WPK delegation.

Taking advantage of this enthusiasm, the WPK delegation began quickening its pace in public relations, scheduling news conferences one after another.

The "welcome atmosphere" as such can be said to indicate Japan's readiness to rush into North Korea's embrace, even at this minute if only it ignores the United States and the ROK. There is no need to raise an objection to improving relations between North Korea and Japan in order to help North Korea open itself up. Nevertheless, the Japanese reaction to the WPK delegation's visit makes us wonder about Japan's national strategy.

New Ambassadors to Britain, Singapore, Portugal

SK2802051491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0305 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 28 (YONHAP)—The government appointed Yi Hong-ku, special aide for political affairs to the president, ambassador to Britain, Thursday and named Kim Sung-chin, president of the International Cultural Society of Korea, ambassador to Singapore.

Cho Kwang-che, research commissioner at the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security, was made ambassador to Portugal. The former ambassador to Portugal, Yu Hyok-in, has been elected to take over from Kim as head of the Cultural Society.

Police Stations Receive List of 'Dangerous' People

SK2802105091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0616 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 28 (YONHAP)—The National Police Headquarters [NPH] has sent a list of 768 "dangerous" people likely to lead anti-government demonstrations to police stations across the country and ordered a close watch on their movements, police sources said Thursday.

Police stations were directed to assign a counter-espionage officer to each person, make a daily report on their activities and try to persuade them not to attend anti-government rallies.

The names include people suspected of taking part in violent demonstrations as well as the Rev. Mun Ik-hwan and others convicted of violating the National Security Law.

Ten of the people are hospitalized.

NPH also ordered police stations to watch out for Arab terrorists and keep an eye on 145 suspicious Arabs in Korea.

Police Raid Campuses, Seize Firebombs, Iron Bars

SK2802044991 Seoul YONHAP in English 0300 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 28 (YONHAP)—Police made predawn raids on seven campuses in Seoul and elsewhere Thursday and in a search for firebombs, iron bars and other weapons to preempt violent demonstrations when the spring semester begins.

The sweep, made with court-issued warrants and lasting about an hour from 3:30 a.m., netted 65 students, 60 of whom were later released. Four were wanted activists and police will seek arrest warrants for them, a spokesman for the police said.

He said 2,700 policemen took part in the search and seized 2,941 firebombs, 5,600 bottles, 20 cans of thinner, 310 iron bars and 196 wooden bars.

"The action was taken to prevent violent protests when the spring session begins," the spokesman said.

Seoul, Korea and Hanyang Universities were searched, as was Chosun University in Kwangju.

In Seoul, police seized three truckful of demonstration paraphernalia including 2,140 firebombs, 225 iron bars and 11 tear gas canisters, he said.

* Four Factions of DLP Seeking Party Control

912C0126A Seoul IRYO SINMUN in Korean 30 Jan 91 p 3

[Article by journalist Pak Che-pil: "Four Factions of the DJP [Democratic Justice Party] Wing—the Kim Yun-hwan, Pak Chol-on, and Yi Chong-chan, Pro-Kim Yong-sam factions"]

[Text] Will the DJP [Democratic Justice Party] wing be able to form a single unified front? In early January when the controversy over the need for a shift in generation stirred the new year's political scene, floor leader Kim

Yun-hwan, who is one of the main axles of the Taegu-Kyongbuk forces, or what is known as the TK forces, hurled a noteworthy criticism of the school of thought which calls for a shift in generation in the political leadership. His criticism boils down to this: The behavior of the eight political middleweights in the DJP wing, known as the Gang of Eight, is naive, lacking in thought and perspective, although their intent may be right.

Bitterly criticizing the move by the Gang of Eight, Kim Yun-hwan said: "That is not a move reflecting the wisdom of the 128 assemblymen of the DJP wing, and this kind of imprudent behavior will court the consequence of undermining the unity of the DJP wing." He presented his own idea of how to bring members of the DJP wing together. He maintained that in order to seize the hegemony of the DLP [Democratic Liberal Party] against a formidable rival like Chairman Kim Yong-sam, the first thing the DJP wing needs to do is recognize the factions that actually exist in the DJP wing and form a coalition of these factions.

More specifically, Kim Yun-hwan named these four factions: the Hoju faction (the word hoju refers to Kim Yun-hwan's pen name); the Seoul-Kyonggi faction (the so-called "SK group") rallied around Assemblyman Yi Chong-chan; the Wolgyesuhoe led by Assemblyman Pak Chol-on; and the pro-YS faction (the letters YS stand for the initials of Kim Yong-sam).

Kim Yun-hwan's call for a factional coalition is based on the classification of the DJP into these four factions. He maintained that these factions should recognize each other's actual strength and form a coalition by banding together around Pak Tae-chun, member of the DLP Supreme Council, who is the actual manager of the DJP wing, and after leading the local and National Assembly elections to victory for the DJP wing, decide finally whether to nominate Kim Yong-sam or somebody else from the DJP wing, as the DLP presidential candidate at the DLP convention scheduled for May 1992.

From this point of view, Kim Yun-hwan expressed his dissatisfaction with the self-centered behavior of the Gang of Eight, which according to his classification, belongs to the "Yi Chong-chan faction." Kim flatly rejected the invitation by the Gang of Eight to attend its 9 January meeting at Garden Hotel.

The question is whether floor leader Kim Yun-hwan's argument calling for establishing factional blocs and "effecting a coalition of these factions" in order to take the lead in the political arena, is the only practical way out of the political impasse open to the DJP wing? The answer to this question should be found on the basis of the reactions shown by the various factions.

The reactions by the DJP middleweights to Kim Yun-hwan's call for a coalition of factions are, in a word, scornful. Reportedly, the nine politicians of the DJP wing who gathered at Garden Hotel on 9 January felt very unpleasant upon hearing a report delivered by Assemblyman O Yu-pang on the results of his contact with floor leader Kim Yun-hwan. The nine politicians present were: Yi Chong-chan, Yi Cha-hon, Sim Myong-po, O Yu-pang, Yi Chi-ho, Kim Hyon-uk, Sin Sang-sik, Choe Chae-uk, and Chang Kyong-u.

An assemblyman who took part in this meeting disclosed that the majority of those present expressed their displeasure when they heard the report that floor leader Kim Yun-hwan had turned down the invitation to that meeting and that they got angry particularly when they were told that Kim leaked to the press his rejection of the invitation, thereby damaging their prestige accordingly.

The same assemblyman said that the majority of those present at the meeting also showed a negative reaction to Kim Yun-hwan's argument about forming a coalition of different factions for this reason: Establishment of factions requires a system whereby the boss of each faction provides maximum protection to his faction members in a responsible manner, with the control of money and the right to nominate electoral candidates in his hand, and each faction member in return pledges allegiance to his boss; however, given the present reality of the ruling party, particularly its DJP wing, in which money and the right to nominate candidates are concentrated in the hands of the president alone, it is very difficult to expect an atmosphere conducive to the establishment of a system of boss-controlled factions as proposed by Kim.

The same assemblyman said that on the basis of his experience during his long stay in Japan, Kim Yun-hwan seems to be presenting his argument about effecting a coalition of factions patterned after the Japanese-type boss system, but noted that there is a marked difference between the political climate in our country and that of Japan, which has a deep-rooted history of a decentralized feudal political system. Stressing that in our country the end result would be nothing but an intensification of the negative equation of boss-controlled politics = factional strife, the assemblyman categorically rejected Kim Yun-hwan's doctrine as an unrealistic visionary argument.

Another assemblyman who was also present at the 9 January breakfast meeting expressed doubts about the practicability of the Kim Yun-hwan doctrine on factional politics. His skepticism boils down to this question: Is it really possible to divide the DJP wing into several factions as floor leader Kim does, and is it also possible to pinpoint the boss of each faction?

This assemblyman cited a happening at the meet which graphically exposed the intricately woven forces within the DJP wing which do not lend themselves to a clear distinction from one another. There was a chorus of unpleasant voices at the 9 January meeting complaining that this meeting was projected to the outside as a meeting of "assemblymen affiliated to Yi Chong-chan." Reportedly, Assemblyman Yi Cho-ho was the first to make the complaint. Assemblyman Yi Chong-chan, expressing his position, sincerely apologized for the fact that this kind of erroneous report was published due to a mistaken view on the part of some reporters, and assured the meeting that there would be no more similar misunderstandings.

An unidentified assemblyman said that this episode alone amply indicates that it is much more difficult to form a mid-level boss system in the DJP wing than it appears at first sight. He added that floor leader Kim Yun-hwan may be making such a call because he overestimates his own strength.

This assemblyman expressed strong doubts about factional politics by noting that most of the current so-called middleweights of the DJP wing are the third-echelon politicians who entered politics when the Fifth Republic was inaugurated, and being roughly of the same stature, it is difficult to say which one is stronger than others, and that in the case of most of the freshmen and sophomore assemblymen, except for the members of Pak Chol-on's Wolgyesuhoe, they hesitate to throw in their lots with any of the groups.

It has been ascertained that this skepticism is common among the majority of the assemblymen from the DJP wing. The predominant view among the DJP middleweights in particular is that unless President No expressly gives preference to factional politics, it is impossible to activate a system of factional politics. This negative view stems from their failure in attempts to introduce boss-controlled factional politics in the past.

They recall that the attempts of Assemblyman Yi Chong-chan and some other middleweights in 1989 to form factions, as a means of dealing with the aftermath of the recurring internal feuds within the DJP in the early days of the Sixth Republic, were suspended under the pressure of Chongwadae. Because of this experience, they are skeptical about the feasibility of introducing factional politics.

Among some politicians, however, the view is emerging that inasmuch as the current political situation is radically different from the political situation which prevailed in the early days of the Sixth Republic, a situation may develop in the future which would enable the formation of a coalition of factions as proposed by floor leader Kim Yun-hwan.

According to their analysis, the current political situation, when viewed from President No's standpoint, is not so relaxed as to permit him to rule the country by relying on his coteries as he did in the early days of the Sixth Republic.

Their reasoning is that with the prospect for amending the Constitution to introduce a cabinet form of government, one of the conditions for the three-party merger, completely faded away due to the persistent offensive by the forces affiliated to DLP Supreme Council member Kim Yong-sam, the next presidency might be handed over, not to the authentic ruling party, but to the "quasi-ruling party," namely, the RDP [Reunification Democratic Party] wing whose governing line is dubious, and that given this emergency situation, President No is now in such a position that as the chieftain of the authentic ruling party, the DJP wing included, he finds it necessary to look for different means of coping with the changed situation.

In addition, President No has come to feel keenly the necessity of changing his style of controlling the ruling party in person to that of controlling the whole party down to individual members of the party organization without exception, through intermediate party bosses, so that he may cope with any contingency. This makes it highly possible that the president will authorize boss-controlled factional politics as part of this shift.

When some DJP middleweights raised the question of effecting a shift in generation at the 5 January Chongwadae meeting of DLP middleweights, President No made the gesture of admonishing these proponents by saying: "There can be no argument about an arbitrary shift in generation." But immediately afterwards he sent Son Chu-hwan, his senior secretary for political affairs, to the group of these DJP middleweights to calm them down by saying: "You need not lose your hearts."

These DJP middleweights regard the classification of the DJP wing into four streams as something useful in various ways in prognosticating future political trends. They are of the opinion that the future of the power struggle within the DLP for the presidential mantle will depend on in what form these four streams will be brought together or be pitted against one another.

However, the DJP wing has exhibited itself to be nothing more than "an army of sands," in the words of the RDP wing, because as complained about by the NDRP [New Democratic Republican Party] wing time and time again in the past, "the DJP wing has failed to unite, and what is worse, its middleweights who should stand on the frontline of the struggle, have been absorbed in maintaining their own personal political safety."

The prevailing view in political circles is that given the fierce strife for hegemony and the strong antagonism which have persisted thus far among the various blocs of the DJP wing, these blocs are unlikely to band together from a broader point of view. Political observers say that it is more realistic to expect that two or three of these political blocs will form a "conditional coalition front" than to expect all these blocs will weave themselves into a grand unity; and they do expect that in the end, there will be a visible concerted effort exerted in this direction. In their opinion, the most difficult problem that will arise, if and when work begins to form a coalition front, will be in essence, from which bloc the presidential candidate is to be chosen.

The majority opinion is that if the Constitution is revised to introduce the cabinet form of government, it would become relatively easier by nature of the cabinet system to divide the powers and roles, but that if the attempt of the DJP and NDRP wings to revive their efforts for the constitutional amendment to introduce the cabinet system should be taken back to the drawing board again, things will become more complicated.

According to political observers, if things should come to this impasse, the person who will benefit most would be Assemblyman Yi Chong-chan. As is clear from various recent public opinion polls, no one among the DJP middleweights has an image more appealing to the masses than he does. When floor leader Kim Yun-hwan met with Yonsei University students late last year, he expressed the view that "a person from a suitable area other than the Taegu-Kyongbuk area should be chosen" as the next presidential candidate.

However, it is still doubtful whether Assemblyman Yi will be able to have a free ride as the front runner of the DJP wing "in time of emergency." This is because President No, Assemblyman Pak Chol-on, and the rest of the Chongwadae group are extremely on guard against Assemblyman Yi, constraining in various ways his efforts to expand his influence. In addition, most of the DJP middleweights still entertain "the sense of being his equals," feeling that Assemblyman Yi is in no way superior to them, and do not view him in a vertical or superior-subordinate light nor regard him as a potential presidential candidate.

Judging from all this, one may conclude that time is needed before the argument about factional politics or the call for a coalition of factions, as advocated by floor leader Kim Yun-hwan, will come to see the light of practicability. As an alternative, chances are high that efforts to form factional blocs will be acquiesced in, and that the DJP wing will be managed with Supreme Council member Pak Tae-chun at the center, with a view to coping with any contingency that may arise in the future.

Considering all these factors together, it may be said that the possibility of realizing factional politics within the DJP wing is closely related to the outcome of the move for a revision of the Constitution to provide for the cabinet system which is expected to be revived before and after the 14th general election. Irrespective of the outcome of this move, there will be a visible effort to form factional blocs within the DJP wing, and the process of formation of factions is expected to proceed in close conjunction with the move to bring about a shift in generation in the leadership, and with the move to do away with the leadership mechanism associated with the two Kims.

Viewed from this angle, Kim Yong-sam's separate meetings with Assemblymen Pak Chol-on and Yi Chong-chan on 11 and 12 January, respectively, may be interpreted as a probing operation on the part of Kim Yong-sam to cope with the contingencies described above. Following their meetings with Kim Yong-sam, Yi Chong-chan and Pak Chol-on had a secret luncheon meeting on 12 January, and in the opinion of some observers, all these meetings may represent the working of the interfactional mechanism within the DJP wing, with the idea of forming factional blocs in the back of their minds.

* Unions Plan Participation in Local Elections

912C0079 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean
18 Dec 1990 p 12

[Text] [begin box] Just as the Local Autonomy Law passed through the National Assembly, the labor unions were preparing concretely to participate in political activites. Pak Chong Kun, chairman of the Korean Federation of Trade Unions, is preparing to produce labor representatives as candidates for chairman seats for local autonomy units and local councils, and to increase its number of political committees in each local area. The Federation of Trade Unions, in particular, has taken steps to question the constitutionality of Article 12 of the Labor Union Law, which has prevented the participation of labor unions in political action until the present time, by planning to appeal the law in the constitutional court sometime this week. [end box]

The Federation of Trade Unions has formulated a plan to "actively participate" in the local autonomy system in the first half of next year by identifying the number of union member candidates available in each electoral district, and by increasing the number of successful labor candidates overall. There are, however, some concerns about the current legal restrictions on labor union involvement in politics, and also about rash participation in political action because it might increase factionalism and confusion within the federation.

A list of problems in conjunction with labor union political activities for the first period includes political participation by the Federation of Trade Unions. The participation of the Federation of Trade Unions, was officially announced at its regular representative conference in February 1988:

"Since economic struggles alone to guarantee the interest of laborers, are insufficient and limited, they must participate in political action to eventually help them get their fair share."

The Federation of Trade Unions believes that their political participation will be assured, regardless of what role they will actually play if the local autonomy system is implemented. Until then they will attempt to have the labor law changed, continue to fight to improve the current labor system by their push for conversion of the enterprise-based labor unions system to a manufacturing-based system, and will plan for long-term political participation to promote worker benefits by participating in a variety of government committees.

The Federation of Trade Unions will not merely use passive tactics to recommend amending the Labor Union Law, expressing its attitude regarding various governmental policies, but will, in the future, identify and endorse specific candidates and political parties that show strong support for the interests of workers. The federation plans to nominate labor candidates to local councils and candidates for chairman positions in the local government, and also plans to encourage individuals that previously held management positions in the union to become involved in supporting campaigns, and in distributing campaign leaflets and brochures.

The Federation of Trade Unions is planning to produce workers' representatives as candidates in industrial areas where many local union presidents are affiliated with the federation, and where they stand a better chance of being elected. Approximately 50 local labor union presidents in Pusan, Inchon, Ulsan, Masan, and Pohang are expected to be candidates in local elections.

Currently, the labor union law prevents labor unions from participating in political activities. In addition, provisions of the National Security Law and the Labor Strike Mediation Law systematically prohibit labor unions from becoming involved in politics, and also prohibit a third party from mediating labor disputes.

The Federation of Trade Unions is petitioning a constitutional appeal to repeal Article 12 of the Labor Union Law, and is also organizing a political alliance of local citizens or support organizations, so that labor candidates can be elected, as long as it doesn't violate provisions of Article 12.

The Constitutional Appeal—Article 12 of the Labor Union Law states:

- Labor unions are prohibited from supporting a specific person or party in a public election.
- Candidates are prohibited from accepting contributions for political activities from a union member.
- Labor union funds cannot be used to support political activities.

When the labor law was first established in 1953, there was no provision prohibiting political activities on the part of labor unions, but an amendment was added in 1963 after the military took power on May 16th of that year.

The labor movement has been active since the declaration of 29 June 1989, and the Federation of Trade Unions has persistently demanded the repeal of Article 12 of the Labor Union Law. Article 12 was eliminated by mutual agreement of both the government and opposition parties last year, but the National Assembly's motion to repeal it was defeated by a presidential veto. The federation believes that Article 12 is the main obstacle to its involvement in political action and therefore it is planning an appeal of this provision at the Constitutional Court within 20 days of the recess of the National Assembly.

Labor union political action policy in foreign countries—The trend is that most countries around the world guarantee the involvement of labor unions in political action in the following ways:

- In the United States labor union political education committees support any candidates or a specific party which supports labor union policy, whether it is the ruling party or an opposition party.
- In Japan and Germany, labor unions align themselves with the socialist parties.
- In England, labor unions compose the main body of the Labor Party and possess a great deal of political power.

In England, labor unions have become the main political body through the power of the Labor Party, as they have likewise in a large number of Western European countries, like Germany where the ruling Socialist Democratic Party has its power base on labor unions.

Kim Yun Hwan, a professor at Tanguk University, indicated that the "refusal of the government to allow the participation of labor unions in political action is a mistake and represents a reversal in a current historical trend." Furthermore, he believes that "policymakers should bring the power of labor unions into a political system as a stabilizing element, and make them an equal partner in industrial development. For this reason, the government should allow labor unions to participate in political action and also allow them to organize political groups to represent them."

Yun Sung-chon, professor at the University of Kwang Un, however, commented that: "There is an absolute need to delineate and limit the political activity of labor unions to the economic sector," and further cautioned that, "Under the current circumstances where the labor unions have not yet overcome various challenges and criticisms, internally or externally, their rash participation in political activities might increase factionalism and confusion within the organization."

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Mahathir Hopes Iraq Accepts All UN Resolutions

BK2802084191 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0659 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Feb 28 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said Thursday he hoped that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn would accept all United Nations' resolutions and the terms of the allied forces to end the Gulf war.

The prime minister said he was sad that President Saddam seemed to be accepting the resolutions and the terms one by one.

"If he (President Saddam) had accepted them at the outset, no one would have died," he told reporters here.

He said he hoped that President Saddam would always consider the safety of the Iraqi people and soldiers.

Prime Minister Welcomes U.S. Aid Restoration

BK2802054491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0509 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Feb 28 (AFP)—Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said Thursday he was happy over a bid by U.S. President George Bush to restore a military grant to Malaysia but added that the move would not change his policy towards Vietnamese refugees.

Dr. Mahathir was commenting on a report from Washington that the Bush administration would ask congress next month to reinstate the 1.1 million U.S. dollar grant withdrawn last year on a legislative amendment pushed through by Senator Mark Hatfield, a republican from Oregon.

Mr. Hatfield sought Malaysia's withdrawal from the international military education and training programme because of Kuala Lumpur's policy of pushing out Vietnamese boat people who the Malaysian Government says are economic migrants and not refugees.

"Our policy will remain the same. If they want to give it (the grant) back, we will take it," Dr. Mahathir told newsmen.

Dr. Mahathir said that Malaysia's policy towards Vietnamese boat people was no different from the U.S. Government's practise of deporting Mexicans who entered the U.S. illegally.

"If the U.S. can do it, we can too," he said.

Malaysia has been under fire from U.S. refugee and human rights organisations for pushing out boat people landing on its shores. Most of the refugees denied entry into Malaysia have ended up in Indonesia.

A U.S. diplomat here confirmed the Bush administration's move but said that there was no guarantee that it would not be blocked in congress.

The U.S. Government expressed regret last year when Mr. Hatfield's amendment was passed and the grant withdrawn.

Romanian Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit

BK2702144691 Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English 1330 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Romanian Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase has arrived in Kuala Lumpur for a three-day visit. He will cochair the sixth meeting of the Malaysia-Romania Joint Commission.

According to Wisma Putra [Foreign Ministry], Mr. Nastase, who is heading a 25-member delegation which includes transport and public works minister, [words indistinct], and senior government officials and businessmen, was met on arrival by Deputy Foreign Minister Datuk Dr. Abdullah Fadzil Che Wan.

Mr. Nastase is the first Romanian foreign minister to visit Malaysia following the uprising in December 1989, which [words indistinct] pro-democracy revolution which led to the overthrow and execution of communist President Nicolae Ceausescu.

Several economic (?agreements) are to be signed during the visit, including an economic and business cooperation agreement, a trade agreement, and a shipping agreement.

Commentary Lauds Trade Enhancement With Romania

BK2802092991 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0800 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Station Commentary]

[Text] The Malaysian Government is currently playing host to the Romanian Foreign Minister, Adrian Nastase, who arrived in Kuala Lumpur yesterday for a 3-day official visit. He heads the 25-member delegation and will cochair the meeting of the Malaysia-Romania joint commission. The visit signals the beginning of a new ear in bilateral relations between the two countries.

Romania has only recently began a fresh start after 40 years of communism which left her one of the poorest countries in Europe. The new leaders under President Ion Iliescu are eager to show that Romania can be a potential investor abroad. It is encouraging to note that the country has selected Malaysia as one of its major trading partners. The establishment of the joint commission is a pointer in this direction.

Romania is currently undergoing an economic transformation; how to control distance and introduce an open-market economy. The joint commission is part of the exercise to diversify trade activities between Romania and Malaysia. At present trade between the two countries is relatively small. In the first seven months of last year, it contributed to only 0.02 percent of Malaysia's total external trade.

According the Statistics Department the total trade between the two countries in 1989 amounted to just around U.S. $9 million. Romania has been a traditional importer of Malaysian natural rubber and palm oil. Malaysia imports from Romania chemicals, fertilizers, machineries, Bulgarian electric motors and transformers.

According to its officials Romania is impressed with Malaysia's flourishing economy. They are hopeful that bilateral trade and economic cooperation can be greatly enhanced through the work of the joint commission. There are tremendous prospects for improving trade relations.

Romania has expressed its desire to improve and diversify its imports from Malaysia to include manufactured and consumer goods which is TV sets, washing machines, and fruit juicers. Romania is also hopeful of increasing its presence in Malaysia through joint ventures in various sectors such as wood and wood processing, motor assembly, and manufacture of vehicle parts. Romania has expressed interest in participating in the construction and extension of Malaysian ports and airports as planned by the Malaysian Government. A shipping agreement was signed earlier this week between Malaysian minister of transport and his Romanian counterpart.

Last year Romania established a free trade zone (FTZ), covering a 50-kilometer radius for foreign investors. It has invited Malaysian investors to utilize the FTZ as a spring board to penetrate the European markets. All these developments auger well for the future development of trade ties and economic cooperation between Romania and Malaysia.

The current visit of Mr. Adrian Nastase and his delegation marks the beginning of better bilateral relations between the two countries.

Singapore

Lee Hsien Loong: Growth Triangle Now Reality

BK2802080191 Hong Kong AFP in English 0621 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] Singapore, Feb 28 (AFP)—The "Growth Triangle" linking Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore is now a reality influencing corporate decisions, Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said here.

Brigadier General Lee, who is also Singapore's trade and industry minister and the eldest son of former Premier Lee Kuan Yew, called on businessmen in Southeast Asia "to be quick to exploit the potential" of the Growth Triangle.

The Growth Triangle centres on joint development and cooperation between Singapore, the Indonesian island of Batam in Riau Province and the southern state of Johore in peninsular Malaysia.

Brig. Gen. Lee, who was speaking at the presentation of the 1990 management awards late Wednesday, said multinational companies no longer considered the merits of one single country while making investment decisions but the "merits of multiple countries."

"The Growth Triangle is now a reality influencing corporate decisions in many boardrooms," he noted.

The idea of the Growth Triangle was first floated by Goh Chok Tong, Singapore's then first deputy prime minister, in December 1989. He argued the three countries could work together to offer multinational firms an attractive package for investment unrivaled in Asia.

Brig. Gen. Lee said the economies of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) were expected to grow an annual six to eight per cent in the decade as governments continued pro-investment policies and economic liberalisation.

"If Southeast Asian countries continue their outward oriented, pro-investment policies, these forecasts will be realised," said Brig. Gen. Lee.

He said that this, coupled with the swift progress of the Growth Triangle, would attract even more multinational companies which now see ASEAN as an "integrated market."

ASEAN comprises Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

Brig. Gen. Lee said multinational firms had been very active in Southeast Asia for many years and that they had contributed a lot to the prosperity of the region.

He cited Philips, General Electrics, Sony, Sumitomo and Matsushita as leading examples.

The deputy prime minister said about 15 months ago, the Batam industrial park was just on the drawing board but now a total of 34 companies have committed to set up operations worth several hundred million dollars.

The next Indonesian island to benefit from the Growth Triangle will be Bintan, which is larger than Singapore a ministerial team from Singapore and Indonesia is to visit Bintan Friday to launch the Bintan integrated development project.

Brig. Gen. Lee said the other legs of the Growth Triangle—Singapore and Johore—were also flourishing as several joint operations were in the takeoff stage.

He urged local entrepreneurs to seize the opportunity to spread their wings and become regional corporations.

Cambodia

Thai Coup Causes Concern Among Leadership

BK2802040691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0355 GMT 28 Feb 91

[By Leo Dobbs]

[Text] Phnom Penh, Feb 28 (AFP)—Thailand's latest coup and initial statements by its new military regime have caused concern here, as officials try to assess the long-term implications for the Phnom Penh government and peace in Cambodia.

The coup in Thailand "worried us very much," a reliable Cambodian source said, adding that the government feared Bangkok's new military rulers might steer totally away from the conciliatory posture adopted by ousted Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan towards Phnom Penh.

The Foreign Ministry has said Phnom Penh needs time to study Saturday's ousting of Mr. Chatchai, which it has so far been content to describe as an internal matter for Thailand. Hanoi, Phnom Penh's top ally, has issued a similar statement.

An official, meanwhile, said two Foreign Ministry officials, due to fly to Bangkok on Thursday to attend a tourism seminar, had not been issued with visas as of Wednesday, reportedly a first coup casualty.

Mr. Chatchai had advocated a policy of transforming Indochina from a combat zone to a marketplace while some of his advisors developed close ties with Phnom Penh officials. The Thai military, on the other hand, has strong long-standing ties with the Khmer Rouge dominated guerrilla coalition fighting the Vietnam-installed government here.

Since taking power, the coup leaders have done little to show any shift in their traditional allegiances or to allay Phnom Penh fears, political analysis here said.

Army chief General Suchinda Khraprayun said Thai foreign policy on Cambodia would not change, but added that any peace plan must also be acceptable to the Khmer Rouge.

Although the Thai Foreign Ministry has said the Chatchai trade dream for Indochina will be pursued, a senior Cambodian official here noted that the "Chatchai government was not so explicit about the Khmer Rouge role."

The official placed a question mark over what role China, which backs the Khmer Rouge, may have played in Saturday's military coup, while another analyst commented that "China finds it easier to deal with military governments."

Phnom Penh's demand for written guarantees against a return to power by the Marxist Khmer Rouge, which was responsible for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Cambodians during its 1975 to 1979 rule of the country, is one obstacle holding up acceptance of a United Nations peace plan for Cambodia.

However, local and overseas analysts believed it was still too early to make an accurate assessment of the coup and its long term implications. The military junta has indicated that it would hand over power to a provisional government soon and stage elections after six months.

Many believe that Phnom Penh would have reason for hope if former Army chief General Chawalit Yongchaiyut was to win those elections.

Gen. Chawalit, despite his links with the coup leaders, is regarded as a reasonable man by Cambodian officials here, who dealt with him during peace negotiations last year before he fell out with Mr. Chatchai.

"If Chawalit is in the steering wheel, it could be okay," said an observer, adding that Phnom Penh was "quite hot on Chawalit."

A Cambodian analyst, however, noted that while Mr. Chawalit "gave good advice to (Phnom Penh Premier) Hun Sen," he might not change Thai policy.

If Thailand "decides to give full support to the (resistance) coalition government, the war will continue," he said.

Extraordinary Session Opens; Chea Sim Speaks

BK2802065791 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0430 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] Phnom Penh 28 Feb (SPK)—The National Assembly of the State of Cambodia began its extraordinary session under the chairmanship of Chairman Chea Sim in Phnom Penh this morning.

Among the attending deputies were Heng Samrin, general secretary of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party [KPRP] Central Committee and chairman of the Council of State, and Hun Sen, member of the KPRP Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers. Representatives of diplomatic missions to Cambodia also attended the opening session.

According to the agenda, the deputies will hear the report and clarifications of the Council of Ministers concerning the process of a political settlement of the Cambodian problem and will discuss a principled stance to be adopted by the State of Cambodia.

In his opening speech, Chairman Chea Sim said: "This session has been made extraordinary by important events occurring in the country and in the international arena at the beginning of this year, events related to the destiny of the Cambodian nation and the life of its people."

He informed the participants of the intensity of the large-scale attacks launched by the Khmer opposition factions against the State of Cambodia at a time when the international community is calling for voluntary restraint, and of the other side's dark designs to make use of the peace plan worked out by the Big Five in order to seize political supremacy in the settlement of the Cambodian issue in favor of the Polpotists.

The chairman of the National Assembly recalled the concessions successively made by the Phnom Penh Government and its efforts in the peace process that have resulted in a series of international negotiations leading to the formation of the 12-member Supreme National Council.

"The State of Cambodia's acceptance of most of the fundamental points in the draft agreement on the political settlement of the Cambodian problem should be regarded as a constructive stance," stressed Chea Sim, who went on to specify that respect for Cambodia's national sovereignty and prevention of a recurrence of the genocidal regime should be subject to further discussions in order to find a reasonable agreement on the principle according to which "the Supreme National Council represents Cambodian sovereignty during the transitional period," and in order to ensure that the Cambodian people will not become victims of genocide again.

He said the National Assembly must debate in depth problems concerning the settlement of the conflict, particularly the draft of an "accord on global settlement of the Cambodian problem" worked out by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and the cochairmen of the Paris international conference.

Besides, he also urged the deputies to analyze that question on the basis of the sacred aspirations of the Cambodian people, the overall situation in the region and the world, the UN Charter, and the principle of preventing the genocidal Pol Pot clique from returning to power in order to arrive at a stable, reasonable, and equitable political solution.

Chea Sim also urged the deputies to examine the question of holding general elections in 1992 should there be no political solution and at the end of the current National Assembly's term.

Chea Sim Greets Lao Party Propaganda Delegation

*BK2802075591 Phnom Penh SPK in English
0500 GMT 28 Feb 91*

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK February 28—Chea Sim, Politburo member of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee and chairman of both the National Assembly and the National Council of the United Front for Construction and Defence of the Kampuchean Fatherland, received in Phnom Penh Monday a delegation of the Commission for Propaganda and Education of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party led by its president, Somlat Chanthamat.

Chairman Chea Sim qualified the Lao delegation's visit as a new evidence of the consolidation of solidarity, friendship and multiform cooperation between the two parties, governments and peoples, especially between the two commissions.

The Cambodian leader informed his guests of efforts deployed by the Cambodian party, government and people in national construction since the downfall of genocidal Pol Pot clique. He underlined in particular the principled stance of the State of Cambodia on the search for a political solution to the Cambodian issue.

For his part, Somlat Chanthamat expressed his satisfaction at the rapid development of the country. He reiterated his support for the Cambodian people's all-out efforts for the prevention of recurrence of Pol Pot genocidal clique and the realization of a political solution to the Cambodian conflict.

The Lao head delegate pledged to make contribution to the promotion of the militant solidarity, fraternal friendship and multiform cooperation between the Lao and Cambodian party, especially the two commissions.

The delegation left here Tuesday concluding a five-day visit to Cambodia.

While here, it had talk with Dit Munti, president of the PRPK Commission for Propaganda and Education, and visited a number of cultural and economic sites in Phnom Penh and Kompong Som City.

Battambang, Siem Reap Battle Report 15-21 Feb

*BK2802073991 Phnom Penh Domestic Service
in Cambodian 0430 GMT 28 Feb 91*

[Text] In the week from 15-21 February, the Cambodian People's Armed Forces [CPAF] on a mission at Treng in Battambang Province and at Sre Noy and Svay Chek in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province, launched 13 counterattacks against the enemies, putting out of action 219 enemy soldiers, including 92 killed, 49 wounded, 19 captured, and 54 others surrendered, and seized 143 assorted weapons, a large quantity of assorted ammunition, three field radios, and a quantity of war materiel.

Further on Route 10-Battambang Battlefield

*BK2802023691 (Clandestine) Voice of the National
Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian
2315 GMT 27 Feb 91*

["Special Report from Route 10-Battambang Battlefield"]

[Text] Between 22 and 26 February, fierce fighting took place between our national resistance forces on one side and the Vietnamese enemies and their lackey-puppets on the other on Route 10-Battambang battlefield.

In this battle, the Vietnamese enemies used entirely Vietnamese forces and dozens of tanks, cluster rockets, and artillery pieces led by Vietnamese commanders from Vietnam and in Cambodia.

On Route 10 battlefield, during this five-day battle, our national resistance forces destroyed eight T-54 tanks of the Vietnamese enemies and a 122-mm artillery piece and killed or wounded 140 Vietnamese-puppet soldiers. They left 26 dead bodies at the site.

Since the Vietnamese forces failed to attack our national resistance forces during these five days of fierce fighting, as they did in the past two months since January 1991 when they suffered serious defeats, the Vietnamese enemies have resorted to their evil acts of using artillery pieces to fire toxic shells.

These are the criminal and barbarous acts committed by the Vietnamese aggressors and race exterminators since 1981. The Vietnamese enemies have used toxic chemicals against the national resistance forces as well as the people. In villages, they have fired toxic shells into and placed cans of toxic gas in villages to kill the people.

These are the Vietnamese enemies' genocidal activities to exterminate the Cambodian race. Such an act also reflects the weakness of the Vietnamese enemies who are struggling on the battlefield of aggression against Cambodia.

Laos

Excavation for Remains of U.S. MIA's Reported

BK2802024891 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] Implementing the Lao Government's humanitarian policy toward families of U.S. soldiers missing in action [MIA] during the war, a Lao technical team and a U.S. technical team from an MIA search center in Hawaii carried out excavations on two sites of U.S. plane crashes—Point 7705 and Point 2000—in Sepon District of Savannakhet Province from 3 to 18 February 1991.

The outcome of the joint excavation was satisfactory, because some remains and materials uncovered at the sites reaffirmed that not less than (?40) people lost their lives there. In addition, the two teams surveyed an additional number of (?sites) which are expected to be the targets of excavation in the future.

USSR Friendship Association Marks Anniversary

BK2502113291 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] On the evening of 18 February, the Laos-USSR Friendship Association organized a ceremony in Vientiane to celebrate its 15th founding anniversary of the period between 15 February 1976 and 15 February 1991. The ceremony was attended by Bouathong, member of the party Central Committee, minister of communications, transport, post, and construction, and chairman of the Laos-USSR Friendship Association, and by representatives of the association branch offices and a a number of association members at the center. Rudov Georgiy Alekseyevich, Soviet ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Laos, and a number of the Soviet Embassy staff members also attended the ceremony.

At the ceremony, Bouathong and Ambassador Rudov Georgiy Alekseyevich took turns to express views on the numerous achievements of the association in contributing to strengthening and promoting friendship and cooperation between Lao and Soviet peoples in the past 15 years.

On the morning of the same day, a ceremony was also held at the Soviet Cultural Center to confer medals of the Soviet Association for Friendship and Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries on Bouathong, chairman of the Laos-USSR Friendship Association, and Mrs. Khamsouk Vongvichit and Thongsavat Yamani, vice chairmen of the Laos-USSR Friendship Association, for their contributions to promoting the said friendship.

On that afternoon, a lecture on Lao-Soviet economic cooperation was also held at the center.

Meeting With SRV Friendship Group Held

BK2802030891 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] This morning at the Lan Xang Hotel, a meeting was held between the delegations of the Laos-Vietnam and Vietnam-Laos Friendship Associations. The Lao side was led by Bouasi Lovansai, vice chairman of the Laos-Vietnam Friendship Association, and the SRV side by Nong Duc Manh, chairman of the Vietnam-Laos Friendship Association.

At the meeting, the two sides explored practical ways to contribute to strengthening the great relations of friendship, special solidarity, and comprehensive cooperation between the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the SRV. At the same time, the two sides also discussed details of bilateral economic cooperation, especially in businesses, such as the setting up of restaurants and goods-selling shops so as to reduce the burdens of state budgets spent on the activities of the two associations in their respective countries.

New UNDP Representative's Credentials Received

BK2502103591 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] On 21 February, Phoun Sipaseut, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign affairs minister, received the credentials from Mrs. Haq-Pereira, new representative of the United Nations for Development

Program [UNDP] to Laos, who replaced Mrs. Carol Long who ended her term here in late 1990.

During the presentation of the credentials, Phoun Sipaseut expressed his congratulations to Mrs. Haq-Pereira for her appointment to carry out assignments in the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR]. At the same time, he also wished the new UNDP representative success in carrying out her work, especially in acquiring more funds from international organizations as contributions to the growth and development of the LPDR and in helping the international community appreciate and understand the LPDR's new thinking and policy in building economic, scientific, technical, and social foundations.

Philippines

2 Sentenced for Life in U.S. Col Rowe's Death

HK2802111891 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 28 Feb 91

[By Jennifer Postigo, DZRH Unit 13]

[Text] Two suspects in the ambush-slaying of U.S. Colonel James Rowe have been sentenced to life imprisonment. In an eight- page resolution issued by Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 88, Judge Tirso Velasco sentenced to life imprisonment the arrested suspects, Donato Continente and Juanito Itaas, after these Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army [CPP-NPA] hitmen were found guilty of killing Colonel James Rowe and seriously wounding his driver, Joaquin Vinuya, at the JUSMAG located at the corner of Timog Avenue and Tomas Morato Avenue in Quezon City two years ago.

According to the court, apart from their life sentences for the death of Rowe, Continente and Itaas are also required to serve 17 years imprisonment for wounding Vinuya. Each of the suspects are also required to pay 30,000 pesos to the victims' families. It will be recalled that Continente was arrested at the University of the Philippines campus several days after the ambush. In his first testimony, he stated that he was connected with the CPP-NPA political assassination team and he was one of those who carried out a surveillance of the areas which Rowe frequented before his murder. Itaas was arrested in Davao City for illegal possession of firearms and transferred to Camp Crame where he was thoroughly investigated for suspicion of being a member of a Sparrow unit. He admitted being one of the gunmen in the ambush. Although both suspects withdrew their testimonies in the trial, Judge Velasco no longer believed them. Instead, he issued the decision against the suspects.

Court Orders Release of 10 Coup Suspects

HK2802080791 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 28 Feb 91 p 8

[Text] The Quezon City regional trial court yesterday ordered Armed Forces chief of staff Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Biazon to release 10 soldiers suspected of participating in the December 1989 putsch.

Judge Antonio Solano ordered the release of Capt. Reynaldo Rafal, 1Lt [First Lieutenant] Servando Abaoanan, 1Lt. Wilfredo Jimenez, 1Lt Atanacio Macalan Jr., 2Lt. [2d Lt.] Herminio Cantaco, Manuel Rojas, Eliseo Rasco, Jonas Calleja, Jarius Juanito Gelvezon III, and Joselito Cabreros. They were charged with mutiny, murder and frustrated murder.

Earlier, Quezon City Judge Judge Maximiano Asuncion Laso ordered the release of 1Lt. Jacinto Ligot who was detained without any formal charges.

Retired Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Renato De Villa ordered the detention of these suspected coup plotters without formal charges filed against them with military courts. Neither was there any preliminary investigation.

Solano said their detention was clearly illegal and an abridgement of their freedom.

14 Senators Oppose Manglapus Bases Proposal

HK2802114291 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 28 Feb 91

[By Cesar Chavez of Unit No. 9]

[Text] The Republic of the Philippines-United States [RP- U.S.] proposed military bases treaty, which was outlined by Secretary Manglapus, is not acceptable to 14 senators.

This was reported by Senate President Jovito Salonga after he conducted a survey among the senators. The senators opposed to the proposed bases treaty outlined by Manglapus are Senators Aquino, Alvarez, Enrile, Estrada, Guingona, Laurel, Lina, Mercado, Pimentel, Romulo, Saguisag, Tanada, Ziga, and Salonga.

[Begin Salonga recording in English] The proposed RP-U.S. bases treaty as described by Secretary Manglapus in our briefing session, is not acceptable to at least 14 senators. [end recording]

Salonga also said that the nine others who have not expressed opposition to the proposed bases treaty are Senators Shahani, Gonzalez, Angara, Herrera, Maceda, Osmena, Paterno, Rasul, and Tamano. However, he clarified that these nine senators would like to first see the final form of the bases treaty before they express their categorical position.

Enrile Says Bases Referendum 'Unconstitutional'

HK2802115091 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 1100 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Senate Minority Floor Leader Juan Ponce Enrile stressed it is unconstitutional to hold a referendum prior to a Senate decision regarding the military bases issue in the country. Meanwhile, Senator John Osmena expressed support to a call by House Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr. for a referendum. According to Osmena, it is important to listen to the nation's voice regarding the issue and not just the opinion of over 20 senators.

Department Favors Food Aid in Bases Compensation

HK2802082791 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 28 Feb 91 p 10

[By Jose. G. Ebro]

[Text] The Department of Agriculture [DA] is positively disposed towards allowing American commodity aid as a component of bases compensation.

A draft memorandum prepared by DA assistant secretary Theresa Capellan for submission to the Department of Foreign Affairs points out that "significant reforms...pertaining to PL 480 (Public Law 480)...were introduced" under the recent passage of the U.S. 1991 Farm Bill.

The new law, Ms. Capellan noted, contains a "simple developmental section where minimal monitoring of implementation is required." This, she said, "effectively removes conditionalities in the program."

Also, the new law provides a "long-term concessional credit authority under which financing may be extended either for dollars or local currency uses for periods of up to 30 years, with a maximum grace period of not more than seven years, and an optional authority to sell for cash."

The agriculture official said the concessional nature of the package and the minimum of conditionalities argue for the consideration of food aid into the bases compensation package. She suggested that, "in view of the new law, a flexible attitude be adopted."

As discussions on compensation move to Washington, the DA position may prove a crucial factor.

The challenge before Philippine and American negotiaors is finding a mutually acceptable formula for bridging the gap between the $320 million the U.S. is offering and the $400 million the Philippines wants with regard to the hard, or cash, component of a bases compensation package.

Presidential Aspirants Sign Common Declaration

HK2802114491 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 28 Feb 91

[By Cesar Chavez of Unit No. 9]

[Text] In a meeting called by Senator Joseph Estrada last night at the Hotel Intercontinental, the different presidential aspirants have sworn to effect a free, honest, impartial, orderly, peaceful, and credible election in 1992.

Those who signed the declaration were former Ambassador Danding Cojuangco, Senator Joseph Estrada, Senator Ernesto Maceda, Senator Juan Ponce Enrile, Vice President Salvador H. Laurel, Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr., and PDP-Laban [Philippine Democratic Party-Nation's Strength] President Aquilino Nene Pimentel Jr.

In this their fourth meeting, the eight presidential aspirants have agreed to ask President Aquino to appoint a Com Elec [Commission on Elections] commissioner to be recommended by the political opposition.

Those who failed to attend the presidential aspirants' dinner meeting were Executive Secretary Oscar Orbos, Secretary Fidel Ramos, and former DAR [Department of Agriculture] Secretary Miriam Defensor Santiago.

Meanwhile, eight senators favor allowing former First Lady Imelda Marcos to return to the country and be formally litigated on the criminal cases brought against her by the government in relation to her alleged stolen wealth.

The senators in favor of Imelda's return are Senate President Jovito Salonga, Senate President Pro Tempore Sotero Laurel, and Senators Juan Ponce Enrile, Butch Aquino, Orlando Mercado, and Ernesto Maceda. According to them, the former first lady is no longer a security threat to the country.

Cabinet Cluster E Approves Desynchronized Polls

HK2802073291 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 28 Feb 91 pp 1, 16

[Text] The Cabinet Cluster E on political and security matters approved yesterday the desynchronization of national and local elections in 1992, separating them anywhere between three to six months apart.

After reviewing the merits of separating the elections, Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon, Cluster E chairman, said the group will ask President Aquino to certify a proposed legislation to desynchronize national and local elections for "better management."

President Aquino had earlier expressed her desire to hold separate elections.

While it was not yet known which of the elections would come first, Drilon said the polls would have to be at least six months apart if there are no changes in rules or pre-proclamation protests. It could also be only three months apart if the problems which cause delay in the proclamation are avoided, he added.

Acting Commission on Elections (Comelec) chairperson Haydee Yorac, who briefed the Cluster E, pushed for the holding of two elections separated by at least three months to enable the poll body to deal with administrative matters.

She said, "Since we are voting for between 49 to 51 positions and assuming that the voters would want to fill up all positions, for the illiterate voters and those who have not finished elementary school, it will take 35 minutes just to finish casting their votes. If that were the case, therefore the nine hourrs set aside for lawful voting would not be adequate so we'll have to break up the precincts from 300 average number of voters to around 100 voters per precinct."

Yorac said the government would then have to triple the number of board of election inspectors and triple the precincts.

She expressed concern for possible complications due to pre- proclamation controversies.

On the cost of the polls, Yorac said simultaneous elections would cost P [peso] 1.2 to P1.3 billion, which is higher than an earlier estimate of P900 million due to inflation.

In contrast, holding separate elections would cost only P350 million each, she said.

Yorac said that this early, there is no law preventing presidential hopefuls from expressing their desire to run.

She noted, however, a difference between announcement of "mere interest" in the office—as "everybody is interested"—which is not prohibited by law, and the filing of the certificate of candidacy.

'Open Appeal' for End to Military Operation

HK2802084491 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 28 Feb 91 p 6

[A full-page "Open Appeal" by the people of the north: "Dung-aw ti Amyanan (Cry of the North)"]

[Text] **SAVE THE CHILDREN**

SPARE THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN LUZON (KAL-AP-CAG-AB-IN)—[KAUNGA-APAYAO-CAGAYAN-ABRA-STOP THE TOTAL WAR ILOCOS NORTE]

AGDUNG-AW DAGITI UMILITI AMYANAN! [People of the North cry in anguish] The people of Northern Luzon cry in auguish over the senseless loss of kith and kin, property and livelihood in the name of Total War unleashed against them under OPLAN [operation plan] SALIDUMMAY [expansion unknown]/ Nakilala [identified]. In Marag Valley, Apayao from October to December 1990:

Some 100 children DIED weakened by hunger and malnutrition, from a measles epidemic in their refuge in the forests:

Many of the children shared coffins or were buried without coffins because there was no let-up in the bombardment.

One farmer after being made to guide assaulting troops was savaged, rice straw forced into his mouth, his body covered unde rice stalks:

Four people injured by shrapnels dropped by Sikorsky heligunships as they tried to recover food supplies from rice granaries;

All houses, granaries, ricefields destroyed—whatever was not destroyed by aerial bombings were burned by assaulting ground troops, not even sparing school houses;

Nearly 1,000 people most of them children suffering from hunger and disease. Relief and medical agencies are not allowed by military commanders to render even temporary relief to victims of the war. In Conner and Cabugao, Apayao, January 23 to the present:

400 families of Conner and an unaccounted number in Cabugao evacuated to designated centers last January 24 as a result of aerial bombardment of the area.

Houses looted and ransacked and animals stolen by military troops. Barriomates arrested for interrogation. Safe conduct passes from AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] required.

Banana, the cash crop of Conner, cannot be taken from the mountains or those harvested cannot be brought to the market. Lacub, Abra, February 19, Bollney, February 24:

Civilians scampered to safety when Tora-tora planes straffed supposed rebel positions in Lacub and Lamao, Boliney after the ambush of Crecom [Cordillera Regional Command] troops. The people are afraid that pursuit operations would again displace them from their places. Ilocos Norte:

Interior barrios of Vintar, Duma'neg, Bangui, Marcos have been hosts to permanent "Internal refugees" that have not seen a semblance of quiet as wave upon wave of military operations displace and uproot them. Production and livelihood are always disrupted in the guise of counterinsurgency. **THE PEOPLE OF KAL-AP-CAG-AB-IN appeal:**

SAVE THE CHILDREN FROM THE RAVAGES OF WAR!

RELIEF AND REHABILITATION FOR THE WAR VICTIMS!

STOP HARASSING RELIEF AND MERCY MISSIONS!

LIFT ECONOMIC BLOCKADES AND OTHER RESTRICTIONS!

STOP THE TOTAL WAR! STOP OPLAN SALIDUMMAY/NAKILALA!

—**Inter-Agency Coordinating Body**— NORTHERN LUZON HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION CORDILLERA PEOPLES' ALLIANCE ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE—Cordillera CORDILLERA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE CONCERNED CAGAYANOS FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE FORUM FOR NORTHERN LUZON PEOPLE'S CONCERN

Military Intensifies Operations in Bondoc

HK2802060291 Manila DIYARYO FILIPINO in Tagalog 28 Feb 91 p 8

[Text] General Luna, Quezon—The military operations against the New People's Army [NPA] continue to intensify and to victimize innocent civilians in Bondoc Peninsula, the site of Germany's 420 million-peso development project.

"At the start of 1991, the clean-up operation of the military intensified. They were undertaking not only simple threats and physical mauls but were also shooting civilians suspected of supporting the NPA," the Task Force on Human Rights reported.

According to the report, militarization increased in Mulanay, Macalelong, and General Luna Towns. In General Luna alone, three out of five who were shot died between 7 and 27 January 1991.

Those killed were identified as Angel Platino, Amadeo Recto, and Marcelino Enero. Those who escaped death were Reynaldo Plata and Wilson Recto.

It was added in the report that last November, a teenaged girl disappeared. A few months later, she was seen going out of the military camp crying and pregnant.

According to the task force, this kind of violence is causing the residents to flee from their places.

Meanwhile, the development project of Germany in the Bondoc Peninsula is currently reorganizing.

Farmers and nongovernmental organizations have threatened not to support the said project if peace and order cannot not be maintained on the peninsula.

Abducted Cagayan Mayor Escapes From NPA Camp

HK2802054891 Quezon City MALAYA in English 28 Feb 91 p 2

[By Noel Bartolome and Manny Velasco]

[Text] Mayor Federico Galapia of Sanchez Mira, Cagayan, who was kidnapped last Monday by New People's Army [NPA] guerrillas, escaped yesterday from his abductors at a rebel camp in Claveria, Cagayan, Brig Gen Orlando Soriano, chief of the 5th Army Infantry Division, reported.

In Abra, nine government troopers were killed and three others were seriously injured in an encounter with NPA rebels, Camp Crame said.

Galapia, his wife and daughter were on board a car when they were stopped by 60 NPA guerrillas at a rebel checkpoint in Sitio Siam Siam, Barangay Magnag, in Taglat, Cagayan.

The rebels later abducted the mayor but released unharmed all his companions.

Col Juanito Rimando, Armed Forces spokesman, said Sonano reported that Galapia escaped at about 1 a.m. while his captors were sleeping at their camp in Sitio Nasipit, Barangay Sta Filomena, Dakkel, Claveria.

Rimando said Galapia later arrived at his Sanchez Mira house around 7 p.m. and Soriano sent troops to provide security to the mayor's family and residence.

Camp Crame said some 140 members of the Philippine National Police Task Force Bravo under Maj Ambrosio Beredo encountered an estimated 200 communist rebels in Barangay Bayabas, Malibong, Abra last Monday at about 2:30 a.m.

The rebels were reportedly led by a certain Mario Baawa alias Ka Meng Fei. After a two-hour firefight, the rebels retreated.

The PNP [Philippine National Police] members were supported by four helicopters, which, however, withdrew after a few minutes due to strong winds and forbidding terrain.

Killed were 2Lt [Second Lieutenant] Noel Postanos, Constables Second Class Jose Cauilan, Robert G. Riccio, Jimmy A. Ayap, Rodante Galeza, Segundino A. Cornejo, Tito A. Fausto, Domingo de Guzman and a certain Sergeant Bernal.

Wounded were Constables Second Class Calixto J. Jimenez, Marlon Ilapitan and Nelson Yagao.

Open Letter on Continuing Struggle for Liberation

HK2602083391 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 18 Feb 91 p 11

["Open Letter" by Captain Carlos Maglalang, Young Officers Union spokesman, published in the "Opinion" page's "Voices" column]

[Text] The struggle for national liberation has taken a historic turn! No amount of arrests or captures can reverse the trend of growing nationalist fervor. There are a lot of toiling hands to continue the hard and thankless work of turning our dreams into reality—liberation from foreign control and domination; democratization of power, wealth, opportunities and influence; and industralization to cope with the requirements of 21st century global economic changes.

The arrest and capture of Major Abraham Purugganan and Lt. Col. Victor Batac last February 6, 1991 in Makati, Metro Manila, is the least of our worries. Compared with the evolution of leadership in the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] where the parameter of selection is blind and canine loyalty, the revolutionary Movement is fortunate to be replete with able and visionary leaders at all levels.

This crumbling administration can no longer contest the prevalence of our cadres within the AFP and other sectors and the existence of our revolutionary chain of command with its parallel alterantive government set-up designed NOT to rival its incompetence BUT to absorb the aftershocks of the national crises and spring the nation back to her feet.

Our direction is clear. Initally, we are willing to provide this nation the kind of leadership it deserves: competent, just, democratic and above all, morally upright. Our Movement for a nationalist cause has acquired its own dynamics. Intrinsic to this struggle is our unlimited pool of patriots, whose skills and productive talents wherever they may be: in detention, "underground" or in offices, in the rural areas, campuses, factories, in business and professional circles can be harnessed.

Some people tend to believe (in fact delude themselves into believing) that the series of arrests is enough reason for "writing- off the threat posed by rightist elements AS OF NOW." It is a self- serving misinterpretation for we are neither here nor there, not Left, not Right. We are simply ahead and right at the CENTER of our people's hearts and minds. And no amount of propaganda lies by the government (like blaming us for the spate of bank holdups and other crimes to hide its own failures) can deter us in our quest for genuine reform and excellence.

To all patriotic Filipinos, do not despair for this, too, is part of the overall process of liberation. We have won this Nationalist Revolution sometime ago. The Young Officers Union (YOU) which has spearheaded the launching of a nationalist youth movement has acted as the "medium to verbalize the conscience of the Filipino youth."

All Filipino patriots must now close ranks and claim national victory FOR, OF, BY themselves and WITH the rest of the society. We shall be going to formalize this historic claim as our birthright...to live in our own land enjoying the bounty of her richness.

As guardians of the revolution and guarantors for a bright future and better government, WE WILL PREVAIL! Almighty God has always been kinder to those who struggle for turth, wisdom, justice, freedom, equality, independence, unity and harmony.

Long live the Spirit of 1986 first-ever democratic revolution in Asia!

Long live the Spirit of our noble heroes in the struggle for national unity and liberation!

Long live the Filipino youth and the Nationalist Youth Movement!

Long live the Filipino People!

[Signed] Capt. Carlos Manglalang

YOU, spokesman

Mulsim Rebel Leader, 15 Surrender in Zamboanga

HK2602034191 Quezon City MALAYA in English 26 Feb 91 p 6

[Text] Zamboanga City—PNP [Philippine National Police] Director General Cesar P. Nazareno yesterday accepted the surrender of a Moro Islamic Liberation Front leader and 15 of his followers at the PNP Regional Command 9 headquarters here.

The surrenderees were Mon Hepe alias Commander Lapu-Lapu and his followers identified as Angka Hepe, Isa Hepe, Harun Kapa, Mubin Ganih, Sali Usop, Munap Ballang, Nuho Ballang, Jahalin Hepe, Abdul Sahi, Apot Kallah, Bayan Latip, Rig Ballang, Benjamin Sali, Daut Sabtu and Mohaimin Sabtu.

Commander Lapu-Lapu personally turned in the AK-47 assault rifle to Nazareno.

The group also turned in two 12-gauge shotguns, five revolvers, and M16 rifle, two Garand rifles and a U.S.-made carbine.

Lt. Carlos Pena, Zamboanga City Metropolitan District Command chief, negotiated for the surrender of Lapu Lapu and his band.

Pena also presented the PNP chief with a 90MM recoilless rifle which was captured by government troopers during an encounter with Kumander Agbaharuk's group at Upper Calabasa Puruan district, Zamboanga City.

In his message, Nazareno said that the surrender of Lapu-Lapu was another indication of the continuously improving peace and order situation in the region.

At the same time, Nazareno extolled the officers and men here to "maintain your resolute will be fight and defend democracy at all times."

In his briefing for the PNP chief, Recom 9 director Brig. Gen. Roger Deinla said that the Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF]/ Bangsa Moro [Moro Homeland] Army has remained "passive" and has not launched any hostile action against the military.

He said, however, that the so-called "lost commands" of the MNLF continue to terrorize residents in far-flung areas and harass uncooperative government officials and civilians.

Biazon Says Imelda Marcos No Longer Threat

HK2802054591 Quezon City MALAYA in English 28 Feb 91 pp 1, 6

[By Chit Estella and Raul Francia]

[Text] Former first lady Imelda Marcos is no longer a threat to national security and any disturbance that may arise with her return can be dealt with by the military, Lt Gen Rodolfo Biazon, Armed Forces chief, said yesterday.

Biazon, who met with the Cabinet cluster on political affairs and security, however, said the decision to allow Mrs Marcos home still rests with the civilian leadership.

The government is studying whether to file criminal charges against Mrs Marcos in compliance with a Swiss supreme court ruling that charges should be filed against her within the year before $350 million in Swiss bank deposits could be turned over to the Philippine government.

Since the Constitution prohibits trial in absentia, filing of charges will clear the way for Mrs Marcos' return.

The Aquino government's ban on the return of Mrs Marcos on the ground that she is a threat to national security has been upheld by the Supreme Court.

In another development, Chairman David Castro of the Presidential Commission on Good Government [PCGG] yesterday said hopes are high that the American and Philippine governments will win a $5.6-billion consolidated civil racketeering claim against the Marcos estate.

Castro said his optimism is based on the fact that in civil cases, there is no requirement of proof beyond reasonable doubt as in criminal proceedings.

To be consolidated are the civil suits filed in the California Central District Court in 1987, and the New York civil case for racketeering in the purchase of real estate properties in New York.

Castro said he expects the hearings to start this year in California.

The evidence to be offered, he said, will be the same as that offered in the criminal racketeering case in which Mrs Marcos was acquitted last year.

The Philippine government claims that the late president used public money to buy two Honolulu mansions, the Redwood Bank, the California Overseas Bank, and a Beverly Hills mansion, and deposited public money in Sanwa Bank.

Castro siad that if there is a judgment against the estate, other Marcos assets can be used to satisfy the claim.

Commission Approves Appointment of Envoys

HK2802075091 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 28 Feb 91 pp 1, 16

[By M.C. Casayuran]

[Text] The 25-member Commission on Appointments (CA) confirmed yesterday the appointments of three ambassadors and a brigadier general.

The commission, however, deferred the confirmation of a prospective brigadier general, Norberto Lina, after Sen. Ernesto Maceda said that the officer has to answer the letter-complaint to the CA by the family of slain architect Benjamin Go that Lina was part of an attempt to cover up the case as four witnesses injured in the Makati shooting last Jan. 30 are now missing.

"Whitewash," charged Go's elder brother, Ernesto, a lawyer, after narrating that Philippine National Police (PNP) Director General Cesar Nazareno continues to obstruct an independent probe by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) by refusing to honor NBI summonses.

Confirmed were Ambassadors Mukhtar Muallam, Ma Lourdes Ramiro Lopez and Mariano Baccay. All were promoted to the rank of chief of mission, class II but it was only Baccay who had a specific posting, to the Republic of Vietnam.

The lone Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) brigadier general confirmed yesterday was Abraham Paray, commander of the Light Armored Brigade which favored the purchase of the controversial British-made "Simba" armored personnel carrier (APC) as a replacement to the U.S.-made V-150 APC now used by the AFP.

Maceda said Lina has to explain the charges to the CA national defense committee led by Sen. Mamital Tamano where his promotion was recommitted for further hearing.

Ernesto Go, elder brother of the victim, charged that Lina was biased in favor of his men who were originally with the Philippine Constabulary [PC].

The 35-year-old architect and a companion were killed in an alleged shootout with members of the Traffic Management Command (TMC), formerly the PC Highway Patrol Group (CHPG), on Pasay Road near the South Superhighway Jan. 30.

Go's vehicle, a Nissan California, was reported to the TMC as allegedly a carnaped vehicle. It was badly damaged during the shooting but witnesses and by standers who were injured during the shooting denied there was a shootout.

The Go family fears that the four could have been silenced as the NBI complained that Nazareno was not cooperating in the probe.

Lina admitted in an interview with reporters that he had two of the four injured transferred from the Makati Medical Center to the Camp Crame Hospital in Quezon City at 11:30 a.m. on Jan. 30 for safeguarding and further medical treatment on instructions of Nazareno.

He, likewise, admitted that the injured victims-witnesses, Milagros de la Cruz and Armando Calagos, were later released from the Camp Crame hospital.

Lina said four of the suspects now detained at the PNP detention center at Bicutan were originally PC enlisted men.

In the presence of Reps. Jose Cabochan and Maria Clara Lobregat, Lina promised Ernesto Go that he would provide him the list of TMC motorcycle policemen since there were reports that some of the killers of his brother were in the motorcycle unit.

Lina also promised that he would make available his men in a line up for identification by witnesses.

He said the four TMC men now in custody were then assigned to a mobile car.

Official Assures Military More United, Stronger

HK2802073091 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 28 Feb 91 pp 1, 15

[By E.T. Suarez]

[Text] The military assured yesterday that the Armed Forces is more united now than ever and is in a stronger position to protect the nation's peace, security, and stability.

Brig. Gen. Emiliano Templo, civil military operations (CMO) chief, who represented AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] chief of staff Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Biazon during the general membership meeting of the Perrsonnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) headed by Rene Y. Soriano, said a report that the AFP is divided "has no basis."

Templo pointed out that the differences of views among some military officials on certain issues are parts of the democratic process.

"Military officials disagree on many issues and they are free to voice out their disagreement but once a decision is made in accordance with the rules and the democratic process, everybody is bound to follow that decision," he said. Templo said this is sign of strength, not of weakness. He added that the AFP will always follow the decision of the political leadership to protect the people and the country's national security, peace, and stability.

Meanwhile, Templo allayed the fears of some soldiers who have been reported demoralized because of low pay.

He reminded them that the military has many livelihood programs, such as cattle fattening, to augment the income of the soldiers' families.

Templo also challenged the PMAP to explore avenues of cooperation through which human resource management [HRM] practitioners, together with other sectors, can help protect national security and help in nation-building.

Boni Q. Nery, PMAP secretary general, and Fe Tibayan Palileo, general manager of Asia Executive Resources, said the association is now working with other sectors of society not only for industrial peace but also for national peace and security in line with this year's theme "Helping Rebuild the Nation Through Effective HRM."

National Police Officials Reshuffled

HK2802065191 Manila DWIZ Radio News 882 in Tagalog 28 Feb 91 0400 GMT

[By Fernan Emberga]

[Text] General Cesar Nazareno, Philippine National Police [PNP] chief director, today designated Colonel Arman Agbayani as the new regional director for Northern Mindanao of Recom 10 [Regional Command 10]. Agbayani, who was a member of the Philippine Military Academy [PMA] class 1962 and was a former deputy regional director of the Cordillera Regional Command, replaced Brigadier General Hermohenes Peralta Jr.

Peralta, on the other hand, was today designated by Nazareno as PNP director for investigation in Camp Crame. Meanwhile, Nazareno also designated Colonel Percival Adiong, Peralta's former deputy in Northern Mindanao, as the new PNP deputy regional director for operations in Central Visayas. He replaced Colonel Manuel Lopez, who became the new PNP regional director for the Cordillera Regional Command.

This gradual reshuffle of PNP officials is just a part of the comprehensive reorganization within the Philippine National Police in order to clean up and reinvigorate the effectiveness of the organization.

Aquino Thanks International Community for Aid

HK2802015891 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 0100 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] The Aquino government extended its thanks to the international community yesterday for its continued support to the Philippines when it pledged $3.3 billion in aid for the Philippine Aid Plan [PAP]. At the same time, President Aquino and her cabinet members agreed to agressively support all the development projects in view of the aid granted to the country. They said that as the PAP pledging session is over, the country will act on its debts from foreign creditors who belong to the Paris Club.

More on Philippine Assistance Program

HK2802082791 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 28 Feb 91 pp 1, 13

[By Johanna Son, with Lito Zulueta]

[Text] Donors and creditors who took part in the Philippine Assistance Program (PAP) pledging session in Hong Kong have warned Congress against including a debt-cap provision in the 1991 budget, Sen. Vicente Paterno said yesterday.

The PAP participants also urged Malacanang and Congress to work together for the immediate passage of permanent new revenue measures to replace the 9% import levy, as part of the efforts to reverse the country's "disappointing" economic performance last year.

Interviewed hours after he arrived from the two-day PAP session, Paterno quoted creditors as saying that the debt cap approved by the House was inconsistent with the government's policy of seeking new loans from foreign banks and multilateral institutions.

Next to the PAP session, the government's financial managers will meet with its foreign commercial bank creditors, known as the Paris Club, sometime in May for a possible rescheduling of up to $1.4 billion in debt obligations. The Philippines could save up to $500 million in foregone principal and interest payments if the talks proved successful.

Paterno, chairman of the ad hoc committee on the PAP, said the expression of "concern" came from both multilateral and bilateral creditors and donors.

"They are saying that if you pass a debt cap, how can you expect us to lend you more money if you don't want to pay," Paterno said.

In its budget bill, the House included a general provision limiting this year's foreign-debt payments to 10% of export receipts, or P23 billion. That amount is well below the scheduled foreign debt-service payments of P39.2 billion.

But even before the PAP session, senators had indicated that they wanted multilateral and bilateral creditors—the major sources of Manila's concessional financing—exempted from the proposed debt-payment ceiling.

"Many of the concerns were addressed to Congress," Paterno said, adding that he would submit a report on the pledging session.

The Hong Kong meeting was attended by multilateral institutions such as the INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND [IMF], WORLD BANK [WB], ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK [ADB], and representatives from the governments of 17 countries, including Japan and the U.S.

The donors pledged some $3.3 billion in loans and grants, but Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao said there was a good chance the amount might still increase. He said Saudi Arabia would announce its commitment to the PAP when its foreign minister visits Manila soon.

Sen. John Osmena, one of four senators who attended the PAP session as observer, reported that the donors urged the Philippines to carry out both its stabilization program as submitted to the IMF and its long-term economic structural reform plan.

Paterno and Osmena reported that the PAP donors also urged the country to improve its investment climate through a foreign investment incentives bill, impose more permanent revenue measures, reform the tariff structure, liberaalize trade and hasten the implementation of the agrarian-reform program.

"I hope that the Senate will (now) be more receptive to revenue measures because the 9% (import levy) is really hurting everybody," Paterno said.

Malacanang said it would lift the levy by June 30, 1992, at the latest. Paterno said Congress should pass new revenue measures by June this year because 1992 is an election year.

Osmena said the PAP donors were "reassured" by the presence of legislators at the pledging session. The donors expressed worries over the squabblings between the Palace and Congress on economic measures like new taxes, among other things.

Paterno confirmed that the donors "kept expounding on the need for greater Executive-Legislative cooperation" and expressed "reservations" over Manila's ability to comply with some of its commitments under the economic stabilization program, especially with the coming 1992 polls.

The IMF noted that Manila had launched an austerity program to improve the economy. But it added, "There remain risks, notably that of a weakening of the consensus for adjustment as the May 1992 presidential and congressional elections approach."

Gautama Kaji, World Bank director for East Asia and chairman of the Hong Kong pledging session, reminded the Palace and Congress to resist "the temptation to forsake long-term objectives for more immediate gains and not to permit the expedient to override the important."

International Reserves Reach $2.4 Billion

HK2802083791 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 28 Feb 91 pp 1, 5

[Text] The Central Bank's [CB] gross international reserves as of February 25 shot up to a 14-month high of about $2.36 billion, up 39.4

from the end-January level of $1.75 billion.

The $2.4 billion this week was 20

higher than the end-1990 figure of $1.99 billion.

A CB official attributed this to the release of some $612 million in loans to the Philippines in the last two weeks. The amount consisted of the $174-million first tranche of the $300-million financial sector adjustment loan fromt he Japan Export-Import Bank [Eximbank]. The other part corresponded to the $438.57 million drawn from the International Monetary Fund.

The IMF loan represented the full drawdown from the compensatory and contingency financing facility (CCFF) amounting to 277.1 million SDRs (special drawing rights) or $397.93 million and the first tranche from the standby arrangement amounting to 28.3 million SDRs or about $40.64 million.

The official pointed out that Government should have received $458 million from the IMF but the Fund has already set aside 25% for debt reduction.

As for the remaining tranches of the IMF loan, the release would depend on the country's full compliance with specific key economic targets set by the IMF—base money ceiling, net international reserves of the CB, public sector borrowing requirements and limit on the Oil Price Stabilization Fund deficit.

On the other hand, the first tranche of the Eximbank loan was earlier estimated to be about $150 million. But he said the amount increased due to the strength of the yen vis-a-vis the dollar. These loans, the official said, will be used mainly for the CB's reserve buildup.

The second tranche of the Japan loan may be expected in December.

United Kingdom Vows Continued Investment

HK2802081391 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 28 Feb 91 p 10

[By Patrick Apostol]

[Text] The United Kingdom will remain a major investor and a trading partner to the country despite experiencing an economic downturn, British Ambassador Keith MacInnes assured in a speech before the Manila Rotary Club.

He said the Philippines has enjoyed a favorable balance of surplus trade with United Kingdom for many years.

MacInnes commended President Aquino for sending 200 medical volunteers to Saudi Arabia when the Gulf hostilities began.

He said that the Philippines and the United Kingdom share "a common interest in ensuring that a fair and permanent peace is restored to the troubled Middle East region."

The British envoy assured the government that his country and the European Community (EC) will continue helping Filipinos, as they did during the evacuation of Filipinos from the Middle East after war broke out. The evacuation was arranged by the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

MacInnes also aired his views on the nationwide franchise being sought by Digitel, which is 40 percent owned by a British firm.

"It would be regretable if vested intersts in the telephone industry prevented the introduction of new facilities," he said.

Huge equity investments would come into the country if Digitel can operate countrywide, said MacInnes.

So far, he said, the company has acquired few municipal franchises. With these developments, he added, the cost of international telephone calls has gone down.

Meanwhile, the House of Representatives has expressed optimism on the acquisition of a national franchise but the Senate was reported "still seriously studying the matter."

Views on Factors Behind Huge PAP Donations

HK2802072891 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 28 Feb 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Donors Allow Another Chance"]

[Text] The Philippines won another precious chance to revive the economy early this week when multinational donors pledged $3.3 billion in new loans and grants for 1991. The offer, made at the pledging session for the Philippine Aid Program (PAP) in Hong Kong, came close to the $3.5 billion raised at the first pledging session, two years ago. So, it would appear that the Philippines did not come off badly in the session.

However, there is absolutely no reason to agree with the government's claim that the relatively high level of the pledges "simply reflects the confidence of the international community in the capacity of the Philippine government to manage the economy." Far from it. This fatuous claim not only gives us a false sense of success in the management of the economy; it also flies in the face of authoritative reports from the pledging session that the aid donors are far from happy with the performance of the economy.

Moreover, there is a political and ideological factor behind the donors' decision to give the Philippines a further chance to improve its economy. The reason is that big aid cuts could provoke an economic crisis that would undermine the already fragile foundations of Philippine democracy.

The government spokespersons, given their "hit men" mentality, are of course incapable of clarity in articulating complex explanations, and this is why we are always victims of very simplistic explanations.

Consider these facts. During the pledging session, the donor nations highlighted certain critical areas which, if not addressed, could slow the flow of aid already pledged or reduce the package for the remainder of the five-year plan.

The first is the failure to forge a consensus between the executive and Congress over economic reform measures, including the relaxation of the foreign investment law, the reduction of tariff barriers and the raising of new taxes.

Key administration bills seeking these reforms are bottled up in Congress, which is resistant to new taxes. This lack of consensus is a function of a weak government.

The second is the low "utilization rate" of aid, which measures the percentage of all allocated project aid actually spent. According to the donors, aid clogged in the Philippine pipeline has increased to $5 billion, from $4 billion in 1989. Aid experts from Japan, the largest donor in the PAP, says that the Philippine utilization rates are relatively lower than those of other Southeast Asian nations that receive Japanese aid. This official warns that, "if performance does not improve, it will be more and more difficult" for Japan to continue to allocate high levels of aid, according to the 'Asian Wall Street Journal'.

We should do better than this to deserve the continuing support of the donor countries. The high level of pledges in Hong Kong does not give us any ground for complacency. The donors may be eager to provide the environment for economic recovery and rapid growth, but if the economy cannot be competitive with those of the Asian "tigers," because we cannot forge a national consensus on economic policy, then the aid could dry up.

As it is, there is an increasing international competition for aid, and the reconstruction needs of the Gulf countries are certain to increase the pressure on aid resources. The Hong Kong session could be the last chance for the Philippines to demonstrate it can transform aid into an engine for economic success. IF we can't, there is nothing the donors can do to consolidate the gains of democracy.

Taiwanese Official Urges Investment Treaty

HK2802080991 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 28 Feb 91 p 8

[By Bienvenido M. Perez]

[Text] Without a bilateral pact promoting and protecting their investments, many cash-rich Taiwanese investors are moving cautiously in setting up businesses in the Philippines while more are taking a fast boat to "friendlier" Southeast Asian countries.

To encourage more of this capital to enter the country, Dr. Ta-Jen Liu, representative of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in the Philippines, urged the government to sign the proposed "agreement on the Promotion and Protection of Investment" with Taiwan.

Speaking on "Taiwan's Economic Development Experience and its Implications for the Philippines," part of the Philippine Futuristics Society-sponsored Jaime V. Ongpin Lecture Series on Future Issues, held last Tuesday at the SGV [Sycip, Gorres, Velayo] Development Center, Liu stressed that the formal enactment of this agreement by both countries would provide the key incentive sought by Taiwanese investors—a basic law to safeguard their proprietary rights.

"From the Taiwanese businessmen's point of view, one thing that bothers them is the fact that we have no official relations with your country," Liu said. Emphasizing investors' apprehensions, he noted that to date "there is no assurance that there will be no encroachment of their proprietary rights if political pressure from outside should coerce the Philippine government to do so."

Referring to the Board of Investments' [BOI] Resolution No. 46, implemented in 1989 and principally aimed at protecting investments and investors from Taiwan, Liu said this still falls short of what the proposed bilateral act would actually accomplish.

Liu said "a resolution will only provide a basis for a domestic administrative order. It does not have the binding force of a basic law."

In the absence of a formal agreement, the Philippines has not been able to attract as much overseas capital from Taiwan (the country has reportedly the world's biggest cash hoard, about $66 billion in non-gold foreign reserves) as its other neighbors in the region.

From January to November 1990, Liu said Taiwanese investments in the country totaled just $145 million.

On the other hand, Taiwanese investments in other Southeast Asian countries are swelling. For instance, Liu said Taiwan from January to September last year, invested a huge $942 million in Indonesia, $812 million in Malaysia, and $546 million in Thailand.

Liu pointed out that Singapore and Indonesia have already signed similar bilateral investment protection agreements with Taiwan. Recently, he said Singapore, showing its firm determination to further boost its already booming economy, also enacted with the Taiwanese an "Agreement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evation with Respect to Taxes on Income." Forging pacts similar to those existing between Taiwan and Singapore, Liu said, would provide the sort of incentives not currently provided by Philippine laws. Though Taiwanese investors' remittance is allowed by the country's laws, Liu noted that this incentive is offset by the fact that these can be subjected to double taxation, a fiscal policy still adhered to by government.

At present, the bulk of investments from Taiwan in the country are in various major industries, including electronic components, textile, garments, plastic processing, processed foodstuffs, metal fabrication, industrial paper, furniture, footwear, stuffed toys, aquaculture and aquaprocessing, marble processing, and ceramics.

Last year, Taiwan ranked third behind Japan and Hong Kong in terms of approved equity investments with the BOI.

Cardinal Sin Comments on Aquino's Performance

HK2302091291 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 23 Feb 91

[Text] His Eminence Jaime Cardinal Sin stressed he has nothing against how President Corazon Aquino has managed the government in the past five years. Cardinal Sin said he does not believe in the latest survey by the Social Weather Station in which President Aquino's performance rating fell to 76 percent. He clarified that he has no complaint against the manner by which the president runs the country because he allegedly saw how the president tried to serve the Filipino people. His Eminence expresed optimism that the country will overcome the present crisis in the near future. He reiterated the need to have a young and intelligent person to replace President Aquino, citing as an example Executive Secretary Oscar Orbos.

Thailand

Sunthon on Officials' 'Transfers'; Promises More

BK2802043791 Bangkok THE NATION in English 28 Feb 91 p A4

[By Sorrayut Suthatsanachinda]

[Text] Supreme Commander Sunthon Khongsomphong yesterday defended the National Peacekeeping Council's transfers of senior government officials, which he said were necessary and would be followed by more such action.

Sunthon, who led Saturday's coup which toppled the Chatchai administration, denied that the junta was harassing senior government officials known to have close links with deposed prime minister Chatchai Chunhawan, saying it would keep the tranfer orders to the minimum.

"They were transferred because of suitability. Why should we harass government officials? After all, we (the military) are also government officials," Gen Sunthon said.

In what appears to be the beginning of a major purge of senior government officials closely associated with the old regime, the permanent secretaries of the Interior and the Communications ministries, the deputy director general of the National Intelligence Agency as well as two senior policemen were moved to inactive posts during the past few days.

The junta leader cited the transfers of the two senior police officiers, who he said were shifted because they had failed to comply with the policy guidelines set by the peacekeeping council.

Deputy Police Director General Sanong Watthanawarangkun and Crime Suppression Division chief Seri Temiyawet were removed from their powerful posts on Sunday. Three others, Interior Permanent Secretary Siphum Sukhamet and Deputy Director General of the National Intelligence Agency Maj Gen Kamon Thapphrangsi, who is also Chatchai's nephew, were transferred on Tuesday.

Sunthon Expects World To Recognize Government

BK2802025991 Bangkok THE NATION in English 28 Feb 91 p A4

[By Sorrayut Suthatsanachinda, Kokhet Chanthaloetlak, and Yindi Loetcharoenchok]

[Text] Supreme Commander Sunthon Khongsomphong said yesterday he expected the international community to extend recognition to the interim government to be set up soon by the junta which seized power on Saturday.

Gen Sunthon, chief of the National Peacekeeping Council, said the reason the junta had not been recognized by most foreign governments was because it did not have the status of a government.

"But I believe when the interim government is set up it will be recognized by the international community," he said.

Several governments, including the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia, have expressed disapproval of the toppling of the democratically-elected government under the leadership of Gen Chatchai Chunhawan. The U.S. Government has announced the suspension of military, economic and development assistance to Thailand.

The National Peacekeeping Council, comprising leaders of the armed forces, in trying to justify the coup, accused Chatchai of tolerating large-scale corruption by his Cabinet members, among other charges.

Sunthon said the peacekeeping council would continue to detain Chatchai and key members of his staff until a caretaker prime minister and an interim Cabinet were appointed to prevent them from "exerting their influence" to disrupt the establishment of the interim government.

Sunthon's statement appeared to conflict with that made by Air Force Commander-in-Chief Kaset Rotchananin, who on Tuesday said Chatchai would be freed after a new Parliament is established and an amnesty law is enacted, which might not be for several months.

"The leaders of the old regime are in confinement for security reasons. We hold no grudge against them," Sunthon said.

The junta leader said leading members of the peacekeeping council and himself would travel to Chiang Mai to seek an audience with HM [His Majesty] the King yesterday and return to Bangkok later in the day. He did not elaborate.

But it is understood that the junta leaders will seek royal endorsement for the establishment of the interim government during the audience with the king.

It is believed that HM the King has already approved the junta's provisional constitution that would pave the way for the establishment of an interim government and

National Assembly. The National Assembly would be entrusted with drafting a new constitution, which the junta leaders said would take about six months and would be followed by a general election.

The supreme commander said the appointment of an interim government would take some time after HM the King endorsed the provisional constitution as the junta had yet to finalize a list of candidates to fill vacancies.

Earlier, junta leaders said the new interim government would be predominated by civilians although it would also include some current and retired military officers.

But Sunthon said yesterday he still could not tell whether the caretaker prime minister would be a civilian or a military man.

Foreign Ministry Permanent Secretary, M.R. Kasemsamoson Kasemsi, acting in place of a minister, on Monday briefed Bangkok-based foreign ambassadors on Thai foreign policy and the latest political developments brought on as a result of the coup.

During the briefing, Kasemsamoson reaffirmed Thailand's commitments made with the international community and pledged to uphold international and UN charters and to restore democracy within six months.

—Asa Sarasin and Praphat Limpaphan, two key members of the junta's Board of Advisers tipped to become foreign minister and deputy foreign minister, respectively, denied that they had been offered the posts. They spoke to reporters separately yesterday.

Sunthon Endorses 2d Foreign Exchange Deregulation

BK2802060591 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 28 Feb 91 p 13

[Text] National Peacekeeping Council leader Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong yesterday endorsed the Bank of Thailand's plan for a second round of foreign exchange deregulation on April 1, a banking source said.

Gen Sunthon's decision came after he was briefed by Bank of Thailand Governor Wichit Suphinit and his assistant, Dr Chaiwat Wibunsawat.

Both bankers reportedly said that the second round of deregulation must proceed on schedule to create more confidence for foreign investors.

They said if the central bank failed to carry out this plan, the country's financial image and stability could be affected. Everything is ready with the draft announcement having already passed through the Office of the Juridical Council. It only awaits announcement.

Gen Sunthon agreed in principle to the planned announcement, details of which will be printed next week, the source said.

Mr Wichit said he had also discussed the issue with Permanent Secretary for Finance Dr Phanat Simasathian, who agreed with the second round proceeding on April 1.

After the announcement, foreign investors will be more confident about the country's financial system, which will be as liberal as in developed countries, Mr Wichit said.

He discounted fears of a mass outflow of funds resulting from the deregulation, saying although free flow will be possible, the central bank will still know what is happening because banks are still required to report the situation to the central bank.

Liberalisation is possible now that Thailand's economic and financial situation is on more solid ground.

"Thailand has more than US$1.5 billion in oficial reserves," he said.

Meanwhile, the central bank reported the country sustained a trade deficit of 23,000 million baht in January. Imports totalled 75,000 million baht while exports were 52,000 million baht.

The service and unrequited transfer account had a surplus of 10,000 million baht resulting in a current account deficit of 13,000 million baht.

There was a net capital inflow of 23,600 million baht in January, giving a payments surplus of 8,789 million baht.

Inflation in January rose 0.2 percent.

Suchinda Meets Former MP's; Asks Forgiveness

BK2802054591 Bangkok THE NATION in English 28 Feb 91 p A4

[By Sumit Hanpanyaphichit and Sorrayut Suthatsanachinda]

[Text] At the first official meeting with a group of former MPs [members of Parliament] whose parliamentary status was terminated by Saturday's coup, army chief and deputy junta leader Gen Suchinda Khraprayun begged their forgiveness for having made them lose their jobs.

"In fact I did not want to do that. But you know, I had no choice," the general told about 50 ex-MPs who called on him at the Army Auditorium yesterday.

Suchinda sought to assure the group that the ruling National Peacekeeping Council did not favour any particular political party and pledged that it would organize a fair election and try to eliminate vote-buying.

The army chief also told the former MPs that he hoped to summon influential people in various constituencies to meet him and warn them not to place obstacles to the promised poll.

"You should start the election campaign now. The poll will come very soon," Suchinda said.

Leading the ex-parliamentarians to meet Suchinda yesterday was former Chat Thai MP Sukhum Laowansiri. He said the gathering supported the junta's move to return power to the people by organizing a general election as soon as possible.

The former MPs yesterday expressed different opinions on the junta's power seizure. While some said the coup was the correct way to purge unscrupulous politicians from the government, some others voiced strong objection to the military takeover.

Surasak Buakhao, an ex-Ubon Ratchathani MP from the Democrat Party, said he did not believe that the junta would return power to the people by organizing elections within six months as promised.

"I doubt the poll will take place in the next three years," said Surasak.

The ex-MP said he suspected the junta planned to hold on to power for a long time by forming an interim administration that will comprise former parliamentarians and representatives of major pressure groups and private businesses.

"Speaking personally, I totally disagree with the junta's power seizure. There should be a way that is better than a coup to solve the political problems which arose during the term of the toppled democratic government," he said.

Another former Ubon Ratchathani MP from the Puangchon Chaothai Party, Tun Chintawet, said he also opposed the coup, which he said is not a democratic way to solve political problems.

"However, I have convinced myself that the coup is no stranger to Thai politics," he said.

Tun, a former deputy government spokesman in the Chatchai II administration, said he thought that the leader of his party, former deputy premier Gen Athit Kamlang-ek, may make an exit from politics after the coup.

He said Athit had complained to him even before the power seizure that he was tired and wanted to rest.

Muanchon Party Secretary-General Suphon Phetsawang, an ex-Buri Ram MP, however, voiced support for the coup, saying it has helped to eliminate the bad influence politicians held over permanent government officials.

Sophon said he also approved of the junta's move to organize a general election in six months and its pledges to get rid of vote buying.

"I am waiting to see whether the junta organizes the election in six months or holds on to power for 10 or 20 years," he said.

Sophon said he has lost contact with his party's leader, Pol Capt Chaloem Yubamrung, who is wanted by the junta in connection with the highly-publicized case of an alleged assassination attempt against a highly-placed public figure. Chaloem was accused by the military of having attempted to help some suspects in the case by distorting facts about the alleged assassination plot through his disclosure of information about the case to the press.

Sophon said the last time he met Chaloem was when the party leader attended the Muanchon Party's campaign rally in Buri Ram on Feb 17.

Suchinda Discusses Premier, Cabinet Candidates

BK2702144191 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1200 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Today, Army Commander General Suchinda Khraprayun, in his position as deputy head of the National Peacekeeping Council [NPC], received representatives of the Sugarcane Growers Association and Amanuaisin Alumni Association who called on him to give moral support to the NPC. Speaking to newsmen afterward on formation of government, General Suchinda said the NPC is still considering candidates for the premier post. Candidates must be individuals who are able, knowledgeable, popular, and acceptable to the people at large. Asked when formation of government will be completed, Suchinda said first a prime minister must be found, who would then participate in selecting cabinet ministers. It is anticipated that this week after the king's approval and promulgation of the interim constitution, the cabinet list could be submitted for royal appointment.

Asked if the next prime minister will be a civilian, General Suchinda said in principle the prime minister should be a civilian, but this could be flexible.

Suchinda Meets Acting Heads of 5 Ministries

BK2802060191 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 28 Feb 91 p 2

[Text] Army Commander-in-Chief and National Peacekeeping Council [NPC] deputy leader Suchinda Khraprayun yesterday urged five permanent secretaries under his supervision to work with honesty in accordance with NPC policy.

Interior Permanent Secretary Charoenchit na Songkhla said Gen Suchinda told the permanent secretaries for Defence, Interior, Transport and Communications, Foreign Affairs and Justice to carry out their duties on behalf of their ministers without having to consult him.

However, they must seek approval for work beyond their authority.

Gen Suchinda also told the senior ministry chiefs to propose measures to improve work found to inconvenience the public.

Mr Charoenchit said the Interior Ministry will ask the NPC to consider these important issues—the executive decree to give more compensation for land appropriated for the Bangkhlo-Chaeng Watthana expressway project, the decree to control amounts of explosives and dangerous chemicals and the decree to order firms and owners of explosives and dangerous chemicals to have insurance covering third parties.

More National Peacekeeping Council Announcements

33d Names Advisers

BK2802052191 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 0425 GMT Feb 28 91

[Thirty-third Announcement of the National Peacekeeping Council; signed by General Sunthon Khongsomphong, head of the National Peacekeeping Council—live or recorded]

[Text] To enable the National Peacekeeping Council to administer national affairs in an orderly manner, it appoints the following additional advisers: **Sociopsychology advisers:**

1. Charat Suwannawela
2. Sutham Arikun
3. Kroekkiat Phiphatseritham
4. Nat Phamonprawat
5. Chuta Siritin
6. Chatri Muangnapho
7. Iam Chaya-ngam
8. Chana Katitha
9. Koson Phetsuwan
10. Prachai Piamsombun
11. Phaibun Hansaphruk
12. Khaisi Si-arun

Announced on 27 February 1991

[Signed] General Sunthon Khongsomphong, head of the National Peacekeeping Council

34th Seeks Assets Cooperation

BK2802062291 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 0500 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Thirty-fourth Announcement of the National Peacekeeping Council; signed by General Sunthon Khongsomphong, head of the National Peacekeeping Council—live or recorded]

[Text] To enable the fast and effective operation of the Asset Verification Committee in accordance with the 26th Announcement of the National Peacekeeping Council dated 25 February 1991 on impounding and prohibiting the transfer of assets or transactions in relation to assets of politicians who were cabinet ministers or held other political posts and have become unusually wealthy—more than anyone with an honest profession could expect to be—the National Peacekeeping Council hereby asks for the cooperation of all patriotic fraternal people to provide evidence and clues exposing politicians who have become unusually wealthy by reporting, indicating, or sending any information which might be beneficial for the operation of the Asset Verification Committee to the Office of the National Peacekeeping Council Secretariat at Suan Runrudi on Ratchasima Road, Dusit District, Bangkok 10300.

The public is hereby informed.

Announced on 27 February 1991

[Signed] General Sunthon Khongsomphong, head of the National Peacekeeping Council

6th National Peacekeeping Council Communique

BK2802062591 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 0530 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Sixth Communique of the National Peacekeeping Council; signed by General Sunthon Khongsomphong, head of the National Peacekeeping Council—live or recorded]

[Text] The National Peacekeeping Council wishes to inform fraternal workers that the 28th Announcement on appointment of the Labor Arbitration Committee—issued by the National Peacekeeping Council and dated 25 February 1990—is aimed at achieving quick settlements fair to all parties, in line with the law on labor disputes, of disputes still unresolved by Article 22, Section 3 of the Labor Relations Act of 1975. The Interior Ministry's permanent secretary, who is now exercising ministerial power, will consider appointing members of the committee from among intellectuals in various professions who have knowledge, understanding, and experience in the labor relations field so as to carry out the above-mentioned objective.

Announced 27 February 1991

[Signed] General Sunthong Khongsomphong, head of the National Peacekeeping Council

Council Member: U.S. Aid Cutoff 'Small Problem'

BK2802032991 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 28 Feb 91 p 14

[Text] The United States' suspension of military and economic help for Thailand is meaningless, according to Kasem Chatikawanit, a member of the ruling National Peacekeeping Council's [NPC] board of economic advisors.

"Such suspension is a small problem and we know the U.S. Administration has to take such action. But we hope the U.S. will understand better after realising the situation," he said yesterday.

The U.S. immediately announced a halt in military and economic aid worth 410 million baht for the 1991 fiscal year after a military coup ousted Gen Chatchai Chunhawan's government at the weekend.

The U.S. move is in line with that country's law forbidding assistance to countries where democratic governments are overthrown.

Mr Kasem, an industry minister when Gen Kriangsak Chamanan was prime minister, said he thanked the NPC for ousting the Chatchai administration before the country was damaged.

"Democracy is worthy, but an effective solution was needed to recent developments. I think the NPC has a clean mind and intends to make Thailand a peaceful country," said Mr Kasem, chairman and managing director of Thai Oil Co.

He said if the NPC proceeded with determination and urgently formed a caretaker government, it would be trusted by foreigners.

The takeover will have a positive impact, especially in economic aspects. This will be reflected by the NPC's economic policy which maintains the private sector's participation in business and investment.

The NPC's policy to get rid of widespread corruption will boost investors' confidence.

Refuse

He said he would refuse to take an industry portfolio if approached because this area had a heavy workload and he had health problems of diabetes and heart disease.

"If I accept the post while my wife is in business, there will be possible gossip saying I may abuse my authority to help my wife."

Khunying Chatchani, Mr Kasem's wife, is chairman of the Loxley Group, a major trading house.

Siam Cement Group President Pharon Israsena, who is also a member of the NPC's board of advisors on fiscal and economic policy, said the takeover would have some repercussions but only short-term.

Foreign confidence in the new administration will be affected, but domestic investors have nothing to worry about.

Mr Pharon said after a caretaker government was formed, the situation would ease.

Board of Investment Deputy Director-General Sathaphon Kawittanon quoted Thailand Development and Reseach Insitute Chairman Sano Unakun as saying that Mr Sano had a chance to meet Japanese investors recently and they understood developments in Thailand.

"The takeover will be likened to a road repair—once completed, it will be ready for use again," Mr Sathaphon said.

Chatchai Seeking Resignation as Chat Thai Leader

BK2802073391 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai
28 Feb 91 p 22

[Text] According to a report from the National Peacekeeping Council, former Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan has submitted a letter seeking resignation as leader of the Chat Thai Party and has confirmed to the leaders of the National Peacekeeping Council that he will certainly end his political role. The resignation letter was submitted while General Chatchai was still in custody at the Air Force guest house at Don Muang. It is still not known when the National Peacekeeping Council will release him.

Chat Thai Member: 'Some' Members To Leave Party

BK2802031991 Bangkok THE NATION in English
28 Feb 91 p A2

[Text] A senior member of the Chat Thai Party, the largest coalition partner in the toppled Chatchai government, said yesterday that some of his party's members are planning to defect to other political groups.

Deputy Chat Thai leaders Sukhum Laowansiri, an ex-Nakhon Ratchasima MP [member of parliament] and former deputy interior minister, said the members intend to join parties which have a better chance of winning parliamentary seats in the general election to be held by the ruling junta. He would not name those who will leave the party or say whether he is one of them.

Sukhum revealed the defection move while leading about 50 ex-MPs to visit Army Commander in Chief and junta leader Gen Suchinda Khraprayun at the Army Auditorium yesterday. Sukhum said he learned of the planned defection after talking to some former Chat Thai MPs on the telephone.

Sukhum said he himself could not say whether he will run in the upcoming election under the Chat Thai Party.

"It's a matter for the future," he said.

Sources said a number of senior Chat Thai executives are targeted by the ruling National Peacekeeping Council for an examination of their assets. The junta initiated the move to check politicians whom it suspects of having earned their wealth through corrupt means.

Chat Thai leader, ex-premier Chatchai Chunhawan, is still under military custody and the junta said it will release him after the formation of the caretaker government.

Even before Saturday's coup, Chat Thai members were divided into factions and struggled for power among themselves.

Detention of 15 Student Protesters Extended

BK2802070991 Bangkok THE NATION in English 28 Feb 91 p A2

[By Ophat Bunlom and Charoenlak Phetpradap]

[Text] The North Bangkok District Court yesterday approved a police request to extend the detention period for 15 Ramkhamhaeng University students who were arrested on Monday for staging a rally to protest the military's power seizure on Saturday.

The detention was extended to March 4 as police have yet to complete their investigations. The students including a woman were arrested when they rallied at the campus, defying a ban on political gatherings imposed by the National Peacekeeping Council.

One of the students, Natthaphol Chunanatham, was yesterday released on bail after his father placed Bt [baht] 20,000 in cash with the court for his temporary release.

A lawyer from the Human Rights Group, Karawik Mamichai, offered to represent the students in the trial. Karawik said he would also ask human right lawyers Thongbai Thongpao and Chan Kaeochusai to defend the students.

One of the 14 students, Sayan Yutitham, asked the court that they be freed temporarily to enable them to sit for their final examinations at the university.

Another, Siriwat Kraisin, said all the arrested have been "fighting" for the benefit of the people all along and so the court should release them on a temporary basis.

Judge Chutimon Bothidet told the students that they would be freed only when bail is offered for them.

Ramkhamhaeng University Vice Rector Atsadang Phanikabut said he has written to assistant army chief Gen Wimon Wongwanit seeking his assistance for the students to be released on bail.

But Atsadang said help to get bail will be provided to the students only after they sign a pledge not stage any more political moves and if they did so the university will be entitled to discipline them.

Atsadang said all the detained students, with the exception of Sirirat Karisin, told university officials that they agreed to the conditons.

President of the Ramkhamhaeng Students Organization, Phaisan Chaowana, told reporters yesterday that representatives from the university's advisory board will submit a request to police today to bail out the 14 students.

PRC Envoy 1st Diplomat To Meet With Sunthon

BK2802115091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1152 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Excerpts] Bangkok, Feb 28 (AFP)—Chinese Ambassador Li Shichun on Thursday became the first foreign diplomat to hold talks directly with Thailand's military leadership since it seized power here last week, a military spokesman said.

The meeting with coup leader General Sunthon Khongsomphong was seen by diplomats here as de facto recognition of the newly-formed National Peace-Keeping Council (NPKC), the official name the military government.

"It may not be a legal act but it's certainly a political act," one diplomat said.

The spokesman, Colonel Banchon Chawansin, said Mr. Li's visit to Gen. Sunthon at Thai Military Supreme Command Headquarters here was to "reaffirm close bilateral relations."

Col. Banchon said at a press conference after the meeting that it was a signal that diplomatic relations with China, which has been a major arms supplier to Thailand, would improve further. [passage omitted]

The bloodless coup that toppled the civilian government of Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan on Saturday was received with mixed reactions by the international community.

While Washington deplored the coup and automatically ceased economic aid and development assistance, Tokyo suspended aid talks with Thailand on new yen loans.

Army Official Discusses Future Steps for Country

BK2702150991 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Statement by Colonel Banchon Chawansin, deputy Army secretary, to correspondents; place not given, on 27 February—recorded]

[Text] I wish to inform you about the steps to come in the future. Several members of the media inquired about this issue. My superiors instruct me to inform you as follows:

The event which will occur soon is promulgation of an interim constitution to govern the country, because it is necessary to have rules to administer the country temporarily. After this, a government, comprising the prime minister and cabinet ministers, will be announced immediately to assume administrative authority. At about the same time, a legislative assembly will be formed, its formal name will be specified in the constitution. It will perform two major duties: issue royal commands that are necessary for national administration, and draft a permanent constitution. It has been ensured that all of this will be completed in 1991.

What I just mentioned should not surprise anyone, because it is more or less public knowledge.

After the permanent constitution is promulgated, the country will return to the normal administration under democratic system with the king as head of state.

As for who will become the next prime minister, the matter is currently under consideration.

Banks Ordered To Reveal Data on 22 Ex-Ministers

BK2802022691 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 28 Feb 91 p 1

[By Thanom Phiphityakon and Amphawan Buranaphonchai]

[Text] The Bank of Thailand yesterday issued a circular to all Thai banks and financial institutions telling them to reveal all financial information about 22 ex-ministers, banking sources said.

The move came after the National Peace-Keeping Council (NPC) on Monday set up a seven-man committee, led by former interior minister Gen Sitthi Chirarot, to examine assets of former cabinet ministers suspected of having acquired wealth through graft.

The committee is empowered to seek information on financial matters of the ex-ministers from all commercial banks and finance institutions.

Former prime minister Chatchai Chunhawan was not on the circular.

It said information required includes deposits, fund transfers, portfolio investments and related matters. The information must be submited to the central bank by 3 p.m. today.

The 22 ex-ministers whose names appeared on the list comprise nine from the Chat Thai Party, five from the Social Action Party, three from the Democrat Party, two from the Ratsadon Party and one each from the Prachakon Thai, Muanchon and Solidarity parties.

Chat Thai Party:

Former interior and industry minister Gen Praman Adireksan; former interior, industry and finance minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha; former deputy prime minister, industry and finance minister Pramuan Saphawasu; former deputy interior minister Sano Thianthong; former deputy finance minister Suchon Champhunot; former deputy transport and communications minister Udomsak Thangthong; former deputy commerce minister Chuchip Hansawat; former deputy industry minister Saman Phummakanchana; and former Prime Minister's Office minister Kon Thappharansi.

Social Action Party:

Former transport and communications minister Montri Phongphanit; former commerce and foreign affairs minister Subin Pinkhayan; former deputy interior minister Santi Chaiwirattana; former deputy commerce minister Pinya Chuaiplot; and former Prime Minister's Office minister Chaisiri Ruangkanchanaset.

Democrat Party:

Former science, technology and energy and public health minister Prachuap Chaiyasan; former deputy prime minister and agriculture minister Maj-Gen Sanan Khachonprasat; and former deputy interior minister Trairong Suwannakhiri.

Ratsadon Party:

Former deputy prime minister and education minister Gen Thianchai Sirisamphan and former deputy interior minister Watthana Atsawahem.

Prachakon Thai Party:

Former transport and communications minister Samak Suntharawet.

Muanchon Party:

Former Prime Minister's Office and deputy education minister Pol Capt Chaloem Yubamrung.

Solidarity Party:

Former agriculture minister Narong Wongwan.

Meanwhile, the anti-graft committee set up by the NPC held its first meeting yesterday at the office of the Counter-Corruption Commission [CCC].

The committee is to find out who, among politicians having held Cabinet or other political posts, has become unusually rich and seized wrongfully acquired assts.

Gen Sitthi said after the meeting it had not yet been discussed who should be summoned to testify to the committee, which is empowered to appoint people to subcommittees to conduct investigation as assigned.

Asked aobut criteria in deciding whether or not assets were acquired through graft, Gen Sitthi said many factors will be taken into consideration, including those laid down by the CCC.

"We cannot yet tell who will be summoned to testify. We will continue to hold meetings as the committee is empowered to ask for material from all government agencies for examination. Today we discussed only how we would get the work started," he said.

Army Assistant Secretary Col Banchon Chawansin said at a press briefing yesterday that the NPC is serious about freezing the property of politicians who amassed wealth illegally.

Referring to the recognised integrity of Gen Sitthi, he said the military will not interfere with the work of the anti-graft commission and will ensure justice for all.

[Bangkok THE NATION in English on page 1 of its 28 February issue adds the following in a story by "financial and political reporters":

["Assets of the immediate families of the ministers will also be checked and frozen, according to the order which was signed on Feb 25 by [Supreme Commander Gen.] Sunthorn and circulated by the Bank of Thailand to commercial banks, finance and credit foncier [word as published] companies yesterday.

["The Securities Exchange of Thailand (SET) also received a similar order from Sunthon, the National Peacekeeping Council chief.

["The SET was instructed to see to it that brokers and sub-brokers disclose the shares held by the 22 politicians, who belong to up to seven political parties, the sources said.

["SET sources said that it would be difficult to check all the share transactions of the 22 individuals because of the lack of records on transactions worth less than Bt [baht] 5 million.

[" 'If a deal is worth less than that amount it's pretty tough to find evidence,' said one source who asked not to be identified.

["The present law governing share trading protects the confidentiality of transactions but the sources said brokers and sub-brokers were expected to lend cooperation to the investigation.

["Informed sources said that the institutes were also instructed to report the assets of these former Cabinet members and their close relatives from Feb 18 to Feb 25 to the Bank of Thailand before 3 p.m. today."]

Investigations Seen Undermining Confidence

BK2802053591 Bangkok THE NATION in English 28 Feb 91 p B1

[By Charuwan Loetwinyu and Watchara Charunsantikun]

[Text] Niphat Phukkanasut, chairman of the Stock Exchange of Thailand, said yesterday that attempts to investigate the stock investment of some Cabinet members through brokers might undermine investor confidence in the country's volatile market.

His comment followed an earlier announcement by Phaisan Kumalawisai, a member of the committee appointed by the National Peacekeeping Committee [as published] to probe corruption in the previous government, that the team would investigate the "unusual wealth" of some former Cabinet members through their bank accounts, tax payment records and stock portfolios, Niphat said that the stock exchange, which has yet to be officially informed of the investigation, will follow any instructions issued by the new administration. But he cautioned that any investigation into investor portfolios threatened to undermine confidence in the market.

Identities of major stock investors are generally held confidential by both exchange authorities and brokers. Their names appear only on their share registration documents, while transaction records are kept confidential.

Niphat said the exchange authorities have been keeping a close watch on the activities of larlge investors but cautioned that it would be beyond the authority of the exchange to investigate portfolio investment through sub-brokers.

The stock market closed down 7.01 points at 769.13 yesterday as investors scrambled to take profits after share prices rebounded on Tuesday from the initial coup-induced plunge.

Meanwhile, investors are also anticipating the debut of six new stocks to be publicly traded for the first time tomorrow. The market is closed today in observance of the religious holiday.

An analyst from JF Thanakhom Securities Ltd described as "normal" yesterday's market reaction, contending that buying and selling pressure was balanced.

"Even though selling orders surfaced, there was sufficient buying support. The market was firm yesterday," the analyst added.

It will be some time before investor confidence returns to normal following the successful coup over the weekend, which has drastically altered the country's power structure. Nevertheless, most investors believe the political situation will stabilize.

In regard to reports that share price manipulation contributed to Monday's plunge, Niphat said authorities would investigate if there is any basis to the reports.

Kon Chatikawanit, managing director of JF Thanakhom, said the portifolio investigation should not affect the broader market, provided that authorities identify the names of suspects.

Investors, he added, will most likely come to terms with the prevailing political circumstances.

Kon contended that Monday's 57-point drop simply reflected a lack of investor confidence following Saturday's coup and that investors had simply moved to protect their interests.

Editorial Pleads for Fairness in Corruption Probe

BK2802071691 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 28 Feb 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Graft probe, transfers need a firm, fair basis"]

[Text] One significant action taken by the National Peace-Keeping Council [NPC] early this week was the establishment of a high-power committee to investigate the assets of former politicians suspected of corruption. The move corresponded with one of the five main reasons cited by the NPC leadership to justify last weekend's coup—that there was rampant corruption among ministers in the regime of former prime minister Chatchai Chunhawan.

The rationale of this move can hardly be disputed. Indeed the Universal code of pratice has dictated that all people holding public office—be they politicians or government officials in various services—be penalised if they are found to be corrupt. In many countries this code goes one step further and requires the seizure of wealth acquired through graft, and the return of such wealth to the state. That was also the stated intention of the ruling council.

It appears that the NPC-appointed, anti-graft committee has now begun its task. Banks and other financial institutions were instructed yesterday to compile details of deposits, financial holdings and transactions involving some 22 former ministers and deputy ministers. While it would be premature and unfair at this stage to draw conclusions of any wrongdoing, yesterday's development clearly indictated that the former politicians in question are under examination.

There will be no sympathy for those who may eventually be found guilty. On the contrary, public endorsement can be expected if clear evidence of corruption exists and the culprit is brought to justice. The military was not alone in criticising the apparent proliferation of corruption during the former administration; other sectors of the local community too were critical of this and would welcome a thorough probe to ensure that the wrongdoers get what they deserve. But like all other matters of national importance, a clear principle should be established and pursued: the ongoing anti-graft investigation should be conducted in a fair and open manner.

A firm principle is needed to ensure that the thrust of the investigation is not abused. It will prevent the investigation from being turned into an exercise to settle personal scores. Viewed in this light, it is reassuring that the committee is headed by a man of integrity. While admitting that his job carried a tough burden, the chairman, former interior minister Sitthi Chirarot, has given assurances that all individuals subject to the investigation would be treated fairly.

The need to adopt a systematic approach based on sound principles also extends to the treatment of senior civil servants. Several orders have been issued in the last few days to effect the transfer of senior officials in various government agencies—notably the Interior and Communications ministries and the Police Department. It is no secret that some of the transferred officials had allied themselves closely with leaders in the former administration. The army chief and NPC deputy leader Gen Suchinda Khraprayun had also stated that these officials were transferred because they were lacking in their duties.

But a clear-cut policy is necessary to avoid any adverse effect on the morale of senior civil servants in general. Further transfers, if there are going to be any, should carry a clear justification to avoid suspicion that they may be prompted by motives other than those aimed at serving broader public interests. The NPC leadership has publicly pledged to clean up the system and try to usher in a better future. Part of the recipe of success is to ensure unity and harmony among the various sectors of Thai society.

National Assembly's Role, Goals Outlined

BK2802042391 Bangkok THE NATION in English 28 Feb 91 pp A1, A2

[By Usani Wongsawat]

[Text] The military junta which seized power from Gen Chatchai Chunhawan last Saturday wants the caretaker government and the yet-to-be-formed national assembly, to do away with legal obstacles for an early launching of major investment projects, and to issue a touch anti-corruption law, its spokesman said yesterday.

The national assembly would also formulate strategies for the future economic development of Thailand, he said.

These would be in addition to the task of the national assembly to draft a new constitution, aimed at reducing vote-buying in future general elections, said Col Banchon Chawansin, a spokesman of the National Peacekeeping Council (NPC) said yesterday.

The national assembly would be formed after the promulgation of a provisional constitution which will require the assembly to fulfil its responsibility to draft the new constitution before the end of this year. The council and anybody working with it would also be pardoned in the provisional constitution, Banchon said.

Admitting that last Saturday's power seizure was a "setback" to the country's economic boom, Banchon added that the drastic action was necessary to enable the country to take "many steps forward" after the transitional period.

"Never before have those who staged a coup admitted that the power seizure was a setback but we do admit it as a step backwards. However, we deemed it necessary if the country was to take many steps forward," he said.

Banchon did not directly answer a question whether major infrastructure projects approved by the ousted administration would be allowed to take off as a result of the investigation into the alleged corruption practices involving them.

"We cannot deny the fact that the projects could have been corruption-riddled and if we ignore that, it would become a serious problem in the long run. Corruption increases the investment by the undertakers of the projects and they will pass the burden on to the public," he said.

He said the caretaker government and the national assembly, comprising between 200 and 300 members would work together in drawing up a tough anti-corruption law, which would be an important tool which the government to be elected in the next polls could use against corrupt Cabinet members and officials.

Banchon said the plan for Thailand to host a World Bank conference in October was still on.

"We have not discussed the matter but I don't expect any problem," he said.

Police Official Under Investigation for Remarks

BK2802071191 Bangkok THE NATION in English 28 Feb 91 p A1

[By Sirot Sukphinyo]

[Text] Pol [Police] Maj Gen Seri Temiyawet is now under investigation for his remarks that a videotaped confession of a key suspect in the alleged 1982 assassination plots was "staged." His bold statement also cost him his job as commander of the Crime Suppression Division [CSD] yesterday.

Police Spokesman Pol Lt Gen Chaloem Rotchanapradit said national police chief Sawat Amonwiwat yesterday signed an order formally dismissing him as chief of the powerful police unit and transferring him to an inactive post at the Provincial Police Bureau 2 in Nakhon Ratchasima.

The former CSD chief has long had a reputation as a clean and straightforward officer, and his appointment last October as head of the powerful division was seen as an attempt to improve the image of the police department after it was ordered to crack down on crime involving influential figures.

The spokesman said Sawat also formed a new police committee to investigate whether Seri's statement disputing the videotaped confession could merit discriplinary action.

The investigation has to be conducted within seven days, Chaloem added.

Seri said on Monday that the videotape, which featured a confession by Col Bunsak Phocharoen, was staged to mislead the people."

The videotape was shown on TV station one day after the military junta seized power.

Bunsak, a former Young Turk officer, claimed that the alleged assassination conspiracy targeted the "highest institution." Seri was put in charge of the case until Sunday when he was suspended.

The military junta accused the toppled administration of prime minister Chatchai Chunhawan of trying to "distort the case" in which one [of] his former aides was alleged to be a conspirator.

The matter was cited as one of the reasons prompting the junta to seize power.

Sawat formed a committee to investigate Seri after the latter made his statement on Monday.

Chaloem quoted Sawat as saying that it was apparent that Seri had intended to violate government regulations prohibiting officers ranking lower than department chief to give interviews regarding their duties without prior approval.

Seri on Tuesday gave another interview reaffirming his allegation that the videotape was staged.

The interview was printed in yesterday's issue of the Thai-language Daily News.

Chaloem said Seri's interviews could confuse the public and make them think that police investigations were unrealiable.

'Hundreds' of Troops To Evict 2,000 Farmers

BK2802035991 Bangkok THE NATION in English 28 Feb 91 p A2

[Text] Authorities are poised to evict about 2,000 families from the sites of two reforestation projects in Pa Kham District of Buri Ram Province today, but villagers have vowed to protect the forest and remain on the land.

A source in Buri Ram told THE NATION that "hundreds" of armed soldiers from Nakhon-Ratchasima Province yesterday surrounded the area and threatened to torch the villages if the people did not leave.

He said the atmosphere was "extremely tense" after the authorities placed 40 more village leaders on a "hit list," causing them to go into hiding. The remaining villagers gathered at a local temple, Wat Hua Namphut, with the conservationist monk Abbot Prachak Kuttachitto, the source said.

The Pa Kham controversy erupted three years ago when thousands of villagers destroyed Royal Forest Department eucalyptus nurseries and plantations that had been set up on their farm land.

Headed by Kham Butsi—who has been in hiding since a round of arrests last December—villagers complain that illegal loggers have been consistently cutting downs trees and turning the land over to eucalyptus planters. Forest department officials, however, have argued that planting the fastgrowing trees is in line with National Forest Policy and villagers have no legal claim to the government- owned land.

Buri Fam Governor Sub Lt [Subordinate Lieutenant] Payon Phiran issued an order last Friday setting today as the deadline for the villagers to move out of the two areas, Dong Yai 2 and 4 reforestation sites, in Dong Yai National Forest Reserve.

The order, which has been posted throughout the area, says that those who refuse to leave will be arrested for encroaching on forest reserve land. The offence carries a jail term of between two and 15 years and a fine of Bt [baht] 20,000 to Bt150,000, the announcment states.

Before declaring the deadline for the evacuation, the provincial administration issued an order on Jan 31, 1990, prohibiting settlement, logging and farming in Dong Yai forest reserve and formed a joint task force of police and military personnel and civil volunteers to suppress the encroachment.

The Pa Kham villagers are among an estimated 10 million people livng, inside National Forest Reserves country-wide without land rights.

But the Pa Kham case is complicated by the fact that military authoriteis purposely moved Kham Butsi and the other villagers into this reserve to fight against communist insurgents during the 70s.

In the past five years since the National Forest Policy was announced, villagers here and elsewhere in the Northeast have been forced off their land to make way for eucalyptus tree farms which were ostensibly being planted to boost the country's forest cover.

Since the 1988 incident, local people have undertaken various activities to protect the 20,000 remaining rais of forest that border the villages, such as confronting illegal loggers and ordaining old trees with saffron robes to discourage people from felling them. Last year, the villagers received a conservation award from the Siam Environment Club.

Yesterday, the source in Buri Ram told THE NATON the villagers intend to stay on the land, and despite the soldiers' threats, will carry on with their plans to beign construction of the village's first school today, as scheduled.

Editorial on Actions

BK2802043691 Bangkok THE NATION in English 28 Feb 91 p A8

[Editorial: "Spare Pa Kham Villagers"]

[Text] Extremely disturbing reports were emerging from Buri Ram province last night that soldiers are threatening to burn down villages today if local people do not leave their homes.

If these reports are true, and the soldiers occupying the area since yesterday are permitted to carry through with their threats, this will confirm our worst fears about the military men who have taken control of the government apparatus.

The recent round of arrests of village leaders in Pa Kham District of Buri Ram province began two months before Saturday's military take-over. Today's deadline for villagers to leave their homes was announced by Provincial Governor Sub Lt [Subordinate Lieutenant] Phiran last Friday, a day before the coup.

The timing of these incidents indicates that the previous administration engaged in activities that violated the human rights of people—especially villagers living in areas isolated from the attention of the mainstream.

The beating of villagers and students who were protesting illegal salt mining in Maha Sarakham province last April, and their subsequent arrest by police, provides another example of blatant human rights abuse.

The difference between then and now, however, can be seen in the public's responses to such actions.

In the case of the salt mining protests, press and students' groups were able immediately to go into the area to interview witnesses without fear of physical harm. Articles could be freely published, and there was frequent public discussion about the incident itself, as well as the future of salt and rice farming in the Northeast Thailand.

Academics in Bangkok also issued a strong statement condemning the Chatchai Chunhawan administration for allowing such "unwarranted violence", so called by former deputy interior minister Pol Gen Wasit Detkunchon, who investigated the case.

But what of Pa Kham? After having been moved into the Dong Yai area by the military 15 years ago to fight against communists, villagers have now been fighting for the last three years for the rights to stay on the land.

Ranged against them are foresters who turn a blind eye when good forests are degraded by illegal loggers, and a warped forest policy that encourages eucalyptus plantations to increase forest cover on "degraded land".

The Pa Kham villagers are hardly unique in their plights though. They are, in fact, the mere tip in an iceberg of up to 10 million people who also live illegally inside government land.

Eviction is no long-term solution because, realistically, there is no unused land left in this country.

As countless discussions, seminars and reports have concluded over the last three years, the only way to get to the root of Thailand's forest crisis is to issue land titles to those 10 million people.

But under the current edicts of martial law, almost anything can be judged as a pretext for arrest, and despite the retraction of Order No 14, much of the Thai press is still wary about what they print.

If soldiers burn down the villages and use violence against the people, who will be there to speak out on their behalf? Can we expect academics to issue strong statements condemning the action as before? Will it be safe for reporters to go into the area at all?

All we can do is remind the National Peacekeeping Council that the eyes of the world are on us, and an ugly incident in Isan will not go unnoticed.

Agreement on Aid for Indochinese Refugees Signed

BK2802072791 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] At the Interior Ministry this morning, Chamnan Photchana, deputy permanent secretary for security affairs, signed an agreement on assistance and care for Lao, Vietnamese, and Cambodian refugees for 1991 with the Thailand-based representative of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR]. The Interior Ministry will receive 189 million baht from the UNHCR for food, health care, lodging, and other expenses for the refugees in 1991.

About 83,336 refugees are in six refugee camps run by the Interior Ministry. Of these, 15,015 are Lao hilltribes people, 51,243 are lowland Lao, 16,498 are Vietnamese, and 610 are Cambodians.

Vietnam

Foreign Ministry Statement on Cambodian Issue

BK2802140391 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] Today, 28 February, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam [SRV] issued the following statement:

The settlement of the Cambodian issue is entering a decisive stage. Although a number of issues concerning Cambodia's internal affairs have not yet been resolved, there is a good chance to reach an overall political solution based on the respect for Cambodia's sovereignty. At the same time, the danger posed by an escalation of the civil war still remains.

Everyone knows that, equipped with more war means, the armed forces of the three parties, mainly the Khmer Rouge, are intensifying their attacks against the northwestern region of Cambodia, which comprises mainly residential areas and even a transit camp for refugees near Sesophone District, causing sufferings and death to Cambodian civilians and seriously undermining the peaceful settlement of the Cambodian issue.

Faced with such a situation, Vietnam maintains that the world community must take practical and effective measures aimed at preventing the civil war and promoting the peaceful settlement of the Cambodian issue.

Basically, the key outstanding problems facing a final solution involve Cambodia's internal affairs. Therefore, the current urgent requirement calls for efforts on the part of the Cambodian parties to exert utmost self-restraint, promptly reach a cease-fire, and resume the SNC [Supreme National Council] meeting in order to discuss and settle the internal problems concerning Cambodia's sovereignty as proposed by the State of Cambodia. Only the Cambodian people have the right and ability to resolve these problems. Foreign countries do not have the right to resolve Cambodia's internal affairs but have the duty to respect the SNC's decisions concerning Cambodia's internal affairs.

To create favorable conditions for accelerating the peace process, Vietnam suggests that foreign countries encourage and create favorable conditions for the SNC to resume its meeting to resolve Cambodia's internal affairs in the spirit of national reconciliation so that the Paris International Conference on Cambodia may be reconvened as soon as possible.

Also, more than ever before, now is the urgent and appropriate time for foreign countries to implement an initiative put forth by the United States and the Soviet Union on 23 September 1989 concerning the suspension (moratorium) of all military aid to the Cambodian parties and and end to their intervention in Cambodia.

Also in that spirit, Vietnam stands ready, along with Thailand and Laos, to commit to the ban on shipping other countries' arms to Cambodia via its territory. The implementation of these commitments will be supervised by the United Nations.

It is recommended that the two cochairmen of the Paris International Conference and the UN secretary general try their best to help suspend military aid to the Cambodian parties and effect a cease-fire in Cambodia prior to the signing of an overall agreement. By doing so, foreign countries will continue to contribute to containing and ending the civil war in Cambodia, and to vigorously accelerating the search for an overall political solution to the Cambodian issue.

Prompted by its goodwill and desire for an early settlement of the Cambodian issue, Vietnam has tried by all means, including the most important move, namely the unilateral troop pullout from Cambodia, in a bid to help reach an early overall political solution so as to secure a peaceful, independent, neutral, and nonaligned Cambodia which maintains friendly relations with all countries.

Vietnam calls on foreign countries to continue their efforts to accelerate the reaching of a solution which helps quickly bring about peace and stability in Cambodia, Southeast Asia, and the world, and most urgently of all, suspend military aid to all Cambodian parties.

Radio Hails End of Hostilities in Gulf

BK2802123591 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Station Commentary]

[Text] Together with the whole mankind, the Vietnamese people feel a sudden relief upon hearing the news that gunfires have fallen silent in the Gulf.

Following Iraq's declaration of its troop withdrawal from Kuwait, U.S. President George Bush said the allied forces headed by the U.S. announced the suspension of all military operations at 0500 GMT on Thursday.

The Gulf war broke out on 17 January 1991 and had lasted for 40 days. The losses in life and materials have not yet been estimated but would obviously be in large numbers.

Right on 17 January, the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry issued a statement calling on all sides to exert self-restraint, end the war, and sit down at the negotiating table to seek a reasonable solution. But it was a regret as our voice was drowned out by gunshots.

In the past 40 days, opportunities to end the war emerged from time to time but they were lost. Worthy of note was the 22 February agreement between Iraq and the Soviet Union which was termed by the spokesman of the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry as an important initiative to end the Gulf war, restore peace in the region, and meet the aspirations of people in the region and the world.

While this agreement was rejected, a bloody ground attack was launched. Later, the Soviet Union, India, and many other countries repeatedly put forth new initiatives to end the Gulf war. The world public had also protested against the failure to comply to the resolutions of the UN Security Council.

Today, Iraq decided to completely withdraw from Kuwait and the allied forces decided to suspend hostilities. These decisions prompted by good conscience would stop bloodshed and destruction to the Gulf area.

However, these are only first steps. Much remains to be done for a lasting peace in the Gulf, including the issues of solving the war aftermath, exchanging prisoners of war, handing over the remains of soldiers killed in action, and removing minefields. These issues must be settled immediately.

We hope that with the lessons stained with blood over the last 40 days of war, all sides will continue their positive steps. Some of the most important and decisive steps have been taken. Certainly, more concrete steps will be followed.

The Vietnamese people highly hail the positive attitude of Iraq and the United States and its allies. We hope that they will keep their positive attitude to resolve the aftermath of the war.

As a nation that has experienced many decades of war, the Vietnamese people understand the sufferings and losses that the warring parties have to bear. Therefore, we sincerely wish for a lasting peace in the Gulf.

NHAN DAN on U.S. Reasons for Ground War

BK2702130791 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 26 Feb 91

[From the press review for 27 February]

[Text] NHAN DAN carries an article by Le Kim, pointing out the reasons why the United States and its allies could not delay their ground assaults on Iraq. The paper says:

News leaking out from the White House and the Pentagon reveals the following:

First, intelligence collected by the United States shows that as of 17 February, one month after the start of the U.S. bombing and strafing of Iraq, there had been only 58 Iraqi airplanes destroyed and that 123 Iraqi airplanes had been evacuated to Iran. The Iranian side, however, claimed to have welcomed only 12 Iraqi airplanes. Thus, over 600 Iraqi airplanes are still safely kept in shelters built deeply underground. Only 20 percent of the Iraqi tank and armored vehicle forces and some 30 percent of its artillery force, including antiaircraft artillery, have been demolished. The U.S. administration adamantly wants to destroy the whole military and economic potential of Iraq. In all of Iraq and Kuwait, there are only eight modern airports and three military ports. All of them have been repeatedly attacked by U.S. airplanes and missiles. Now it is time to use ground forces to destroy Iraqi underground arsenals.

Second, before the Soviet Union advanced an eight-point plan, France, India, and Iran had put forth their own plans but they were all unacceptable either to the United States or Iraq. Now that Iraq has accepted the Soviet plan, if this was also accepted by the United States, the Soviet Union would stand out as a peace maker and could claim the chivalrous role in the liberation of Kuwait, thus causing the U.S. role to fade away.

Third, the Iraqi side agrees to withdraw completely and unconditionally from Kuwait and wants its troop pullout placed under the supervision and control of those UN member countries not participating in the anti-Iraqi alliance. Thus, this UN force would likely be made up of the Soviet Union, China, Iran, and even Cuba and Yemen. This is unbearable to the United States.

Fourth, if both sides agreed to a 48-hour delay, that is, if the Soviet Union's revised peace plan was approved by both Iraq and the United States, Iraq would go out of the war with 70 percent of its military might still intact. And this is also something unacceptable to the United States.

Soviet Envoy on Thai Coup; Cambodia Peace

BK2802131591 Hong Kong AFP in English 1259 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Exerpt] Hanoi, Feb 28 (AFP)—The Soviet ambassador to Vietnam said here Thursday he hoped the recent military coup in Thailand would not hinder efforts to resolve the conflict in neighboring Cambodia.

"I hope Thailand's internal problem will not have a negative influence on the process of resolving the Cambodian problem," Rachit Khamidulin told a news conference.

"Fortunately, resolution of the Cambodian problem does not depend only on Thailand, (even if) it plays an important role," he said, adding that it would take time to know Thailand's position on Cambodian peace efforts.

Observers say the military leadership that seized power Saturday is more sympathetic to the Cambodian resistance than ousted Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan, who had stepped up contacts with Phnom Penh.

Junta leaders said shortly after toppling Mr. Chatchai's elected government that peace in Cambodia would be impossible without the participation of the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge, the strongest faction in the tripartite resistance.

But they also said they would adhere to the foreign policy of Mr. Chatchai's government, Mr. Khamidulin noted.

The Soviet Union and Vietnam are the principal military backers of the Phnom Penh government, installed in January 1979 after Vietnamese troops invaded Cambodia to topple the Khmer Rouge from power.

Vietnamese officials took a similar line several days ago, saying they feared the coup would result in Bangkok hardening its stance on Cambodia. [passage omitted]

Hanoi Wants Comecon Reform, Not Dissolution

BK2702122891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1202 GMT 27 Feb 91

[By Jean-Claude Chapon]

[Text] Hanoi, Feb 27 (AFP)—Vietnam wants the socialist trade grouping Comecon [CEMA] to reform rather than dissolve, which some of its other members favor, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said here Wednesday.

The spokesman also expressed reservations about the dissolution this week in Budapest of the Warsaw Pact military alliance.

Comecon "should have a structure appropriate to the world economic situation and to that of member countries to be an efficient economic aid organization," the spokesman said.

Vietnam "is ready to participate in Comecon's 46th session to take appropriate decisions with other countries," he said, adding the organization "has made an important contribution to the economy of its members."

A Vietnamese delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister Tran Duc Luong left here for Budapest earlier this week for a Comecon meeting that has now been postponed. The aim of the meeting was to discuss Comecon's dissolution.

The postponement came as a result of differences among Comecon member countries, some of which, like Hungary, Poland and Czechoslovakia, favor a straightforward dissolution while others want to create a new body.

Aside from Vietnam, a member since 1978, Comecon includes six European countries—Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania and the Soviet Union—as well as Cuba and Mongolia.

These countries were Vietnam's principal allies and exclusive trading partners during the last few decades.

One diplomat here said Wednesday that Vietnam's participation within Comecon "has always been weak because of the weakness of the Vietnamese economy."

Since 1978, Vietnam has received much Comecon aid, which—in view of Washington's post-Vietnam war embargo—has been essential in helping the country to develop.

The Soviet Union has said its economic aid to Vietnam will be greatly reduced this year and that bilateral trade, expected to reach one billion dollars in 1991, will be based on world prices and payable in hard currency as opposed to barter.

On the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact military alliance, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said: "Vietnam respects all decisions by governments belonging to the Pact."

But he added that he hoped the decision "will conform to the interests of each member country and to the interests of European peace and security."

A non-member of the Warsaw Pact, Vietnam nonetheless signed in November 1978 a treaty of friendship and cooperation with the Soviet Union, which includes military arrangements and limited cooperation accords with other Pact members.

The official Vietnamese press Wednesday reported the dissolution of the military alliance without comment, while Vietnamese officials have remained silent on the move.

"Vietnamese prudence is mostly disillusionment, because Hanoi knows the years of cooperation with the Socialist Bloc are gone," a Western economic expert said.

Vietnam's hard-line leadership has reaffirmed its commitment to socialism and condemned democratization in Eastern European countries, with which its relations have chilled considerably in recent months.

Leaders Receive DPRK, Lao Delegations

BK2602160491 Hanoi VNA in English 1447 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA February 26—A delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea [DPRK]-Vietnam Frendship Society led by its President Li Gwang-su, who is also vice chairman of the State Commission of Culture and Education, concluded a friendship visit to Vietnam today.

The delegation paid tribute to President Ho Chi Minh at his mausoleum, visited a number of economic and cultural establishments, and had working sessions with the Vietnam-DPRK Friendship Association. It was received by Hoang Bich Son, member of the Vietnam Communist Party Central Committee and head of its International Department.

The Korean guests also paid a courtesy visit to Nguyen Khanh, member of the party Central Commitee and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers.

A delegation of Laos's Province of Savannakhet led by Boungnang Volachit, member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, secretary of the Provincial Party Committee and chairman of the Provincial Administrative Committee, visited the Central Province of Quang Tri.

The Lao delegation had working sessions with senior officials of the host province. Host and guest reviewed Quang Tri's assistance to train education personnel and strengthen public healthcare for the Lao province. They also discussed measures to promote cooperation in the socioeconomic field, especially in the transportation of Laos's export and import goods.

Do Muoi Receives French Oil Company Director

BK2702151891 Hanoi VNA in English 1450 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 27—Chairman of the Council of Ministers Do Muoi received in Hanoi yesterday a group of directors of the TOTAL Company of France, which has been here for inspecting the performance of its branch in Vietnam, and exploring the prospects of oil and gas cooperation with the country.

Speaking at the reception, Mr. Vaillaud, director-general of the company, affirmed its determination to continue broadening cooperation with Vietnam not only in exploration and exploitation but also in refinery and product distribution.

While here TOTAL officials had working sessions with the Vietnam General Oil and Gas Corporation and the Vietnam-USSR Petroleum Joint Enterprise (VIETSOVPETRO).

Algerian President Receives Vietnamese Ambassador

BK2702153891 Hanoi VNA in English 1446 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA February 27—"Vietnam and Algeria need to further coordinate their actions to contribute to the peace movement and the common development in the world," said Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid while receiving Vietnamese Ambassador to Algeria Tran Xuan Man who presented his credentials in Algiers on Feb. 25.

The Algerian president recalled the traditional relations that bind the two nations and expressed his confidence that this time-honoured friendship will continue to develop in the years to come.

Shipyard Enters Joint Venture With France

BK2702094391 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] The Ba Son shipyard has so far this year signed many production contracts. January 1991 was the month the shipyard attained the highest-ever output value—amounting to over 3.2 billion dong.

With the motto of doing economic business to maintain national defense, the shipyard is continuing to renovate its working method, gradually modernize its material bases and equipment, pay attention to turning out a contingent of highly skilled workers, maintain the support of its traditional customers, and boost its relations with other countries in order to broaden the market and acquire modern technologies.

The Ba Son Shipyard has sent many cadres and workers to study technologies and managerial methods at the Sur Marine, a French machinery plant, and has prepared to enter a joint venture with this machinery plant in doing ship repair and in offering various services for oil and gas prospecting and exploitation in Vung Tau. It has placed a purchase order with France for 150,000 francs worth of machine tools and equipment.

Vo Chi Cong Writes to Medical Cadres, Workers

BK2702145991 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] On the occasion of Vietnam Physicians' Day, 27 February, Chairman of the Council of the State Council Vo Chi Cong has sent a letter to cadres, workers, and civil servants of the public health sector. Following is the full text of the letter:

Dear cadres, workers, and civil servants of the public health sector: On the occasion of Vietnam Physicians' Day, 27 February—the glorious traditional day of our public health sector—on behalf of the party and state, I would like to convey my kind regards and warm greetings to all physicians, cadres, workers, and civil servants at various civilian and military hospitals and pharmaceutical and medical equipment establishments—those who are struggling day and night to overcome difficulties in order to care for the health of the people and cadres and combatants of the armed forces.

In the recent past, large numbers of Vietnamese physicians and medical cadres have contributed voluminously to the common achievements of the country in the struggle to work and fight for national construction and defense. Thoroughly understanding the policy of comprehensive renovation of the Sixth Party Congress, the public health sector has undergone a number of positive changes, such as changing its managerial mechanism and operational methods, extending and consolidating the medical examination and treatment networks, accelerating the production and improving the circulation and distribution of medicine and medical equipment, and providing its specialists and managerial cadres with intensive training and advanced training.

At a time when the country is still rife with difficulties, you comrades have striven to intensively carry out various programs for the control of epidemic diseases and malnutrition and the consolidation of the public health networks at the grass-roots level along with work related to population and family planning, mother-and-child care, medical treatment service, expanded immunization, and the control of malaria, goiter, and social diseases.

Due to a limited operational budget, the public health sector has striven to maintain and ensure the quality medical treatment and improve scientific research and cadre training work with its self-acquired funds, while establishing integration with foreign countries, rationally using foreign aid and the source of revenue from hospital fees, and experimenting with the implementation of health insurance. The sector has also paid attention to designing a model of combination of traditional and modern medicines and pharmacies.

In medical activities, there have emerged outstanding, heroic, and creative examples—conscientious, dedicated, and highly professional physicians who have devoted all their mind and energy to serving the people and army, thus practicing Uncle Ho's teaching that a physician like a good mother.

On this occasion, I would like to warmly commend the public health sector for its achievements in the recent past. I would also like to commend all sectors, echelons, localities, and the people throughout the country for their positive contributions to the process of medical development. I would like to extend my hearty thanks to all friendly countries, organizations, and individuals in the world for their assistance to and cooperation with the Vietnamese public health sector.

Dear comrades, the struggle to renovate, build, and defend the socialist Vietnamese fatherland is still rife with difficulties. Meanwhile, there remain many problems that must be solved in the tasks of controlling diseases and protecting the people's health. The quality of many hospitals at the central, provincial, and district levels has declined, malaria has developed in a number of mountainous districts and villages, and expenditure has not sufficiently been furnished to meet medical demands.

Let all physicians, cadres, workers, and civil servants of the public health sector realize their honor and responsibility by developing their advantages and overcoming their shortcomings. They must also exert efforts to engage in study and undergo training in all aspects and while ensuring unity in their struggle to score many more outstanding achievements and most satisfactorily practicing the teaching given to physicians by esteemed President Ho Chi Minh. This is aimed at contributing positively to the revolutionary undertaking of our people.

May I wish you, comrades, good health and happiness.

My cordial and determined-to-win salutations.

[Signed] Vo Chi Cong

Vo Nguyen Giap Attends International Symposium

BK2502153091 Hanoi VNA in English 1436 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA February 25—An international symposium on a socioeconomic development strategy for Vietnam up to the year 2,000 was opened here today under the joint sponsorship of the State Planning Commission, the Stockholm School of Economics and the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA).

The symposium was attended by General Vo Nguyen Giap, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; representatives of the Office of the Council of Ministers, the State Planning Commission, the State Commission for Cooperation and Investment, the Ministry of Trade, the Economic Commission of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and other concerned offices.

Prominent among the foreign participants are Professor Mats Lundahl, head of the Department of International

Economics and Geography, Stockholm School of Economics, and a number of directors, professors, lecturers and experts from various international economic institutions and organization.

The guests also include representatives of Hanoi-based international agencies such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the United Nations Industry Development Organization (UNIDO), the World Food Programme (WFP), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), etc.

Swedish Ambassadress to Vietnam Birgitta Johansson was also present at the opening session of the symposium.

The four-day symposium will deal with the options and overall socioeconomic development strategy, the structure and development of the main economic sectors, human resources development, foreign trade and investment, financial and monetary policies and mobilization of capital, and reforms of economic system.

Nguyen Van Linh Speaks at Bach Mai Hospital

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[Text] On the occasion of Vietnam's Physician Day and Lunar New Year Spring Days, on the afternoon of 27 February General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh visited Bach Mai hospital in Hanoi. Health Minister Pham Phong; hospital director Le Huy Lieu; Doctor Tran Thi Thinh, the hospital's party committee secretary; and large numbers of professors, doctors, nurses, medical assistants, cadres and workers at the hospital warmly welcomed the general secretary.

The general secretary visited the cardiology ward, the intensive rescue unit, a heroic unit, and the out-patient ward. He saw some of the patients and attentively inquired about their health conditions and the medical treatment and care provided by cadres and workers in the hospital.

Director Le Huy Lieu reported the efforts of cadres and workers in the hospital over the past 5 years to the general secretary: Over the past many years, despite many of difficulties in living conditions, poor working conditions, and worn out equipment and machinery, cadres and workers of the hospital have overcome all problems. In general, they have devoted all their mind and zeal to fulfilling all assigned tasks. The state of housing and equipment has seriously deteriorated. The hospital was built a long time ago and heavily damaged by the war. It has been rebuilt, but not yet thoroughly or completely. Repair work done in recent years was merely patchwork because of lack of funds. Leaky roofs are found in many houses. The age-old networks of water supply and drainage and of electrical wiring are unserviceable in many spots. All these have affected therapeutical and research work.

The hospital was recently allocated 2.5 billion dong for repairs. The hospital director specified: On this occasion, I would like to represent the hospital personnel to express our profound gratitude to the party and state for such an allocation, despite the shortages of funds. He further mentioned many other outstanding problems to be solved. Yet, he stressed: Allow me to represent all cadres and workers of the hospital and pledge to the general secretary that in the days ahead, no matter how difficult the situation, we will do our utmost to serve the people with a high sense of responsibility and service to remain worthy of the confidence of the party, the state and the people.

Talking with the professors, doctors, cadres and workers present at the meeting, General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh warmly commended them for their initiatives to overcome difficulties in providing health care to the people. He stressed that in all areas of work, health care must be the primary concern. He suggested some measures to create the material and technical facilities for disease prevention and control. He emphasized:

[Begin Nguyen Van Linh Recording] Today, 27 February, the day of pride for Vietnam's public health cadres, I would like to tell you a few things. Vietnamese physicians must disseminate their scientific knowledge to all regions of the country, particularly to those outlying areas of ethnic minority peoples, to most satisfactorily guide our compatriots in disease prevention and control. Physicians of our regime must uphold their sense of responsibility and show noble conscience and love toward patients just like the maternal love which Uncle Ho used to teach them.

The history of our country's medicine has witnessed famous professors and doctors known to the world. The present and future generations of physicians, including Bach Mai hospital doctors, are expected to study, research, and progress constantly to advance Vietnam's medicine to a worthy position in the modern, advanced medicine of the world. This is my expectation and belief in our country's public health sector.

No matter how difficult the economic situation in our country is, our party and state have always paid attention to the country's contingents of intellectuals and has created conditions for the peak development of the scientific and technical revolution, also involving the public health sector.

With respect to Bach Mai hospital, the Public Health Ministry has formulated clear-cut, steady, and long-term plans and objectives to couple with the constructive efforts of the hospital and the assistance of various sectors at all echelons to enable the hospital to develop increasingly better in the coming years. Today, on the occasion of Vietnam's Physician Day and Lunar New Year Spring Days, I hope that the medical circles of Vietnam, all physicians and cadres and workers of the hospital, will uphold their revolutionary optimism, firmly maintain their traditions, and outstandingly fulfill their assigned tasks, and that the hospital leadership will take good care of the livelihood of all personnel, serve the people well, and bring about a healthy spring and happiness for our Vietnamese nation. [applause] [end recording].

Outbreak of Insects in Mekong River Delta

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[Text] Brown planthoppers have now developed vigorously and fomented an outbreak in some Mekong River Delta provinces such as an Giang, Long An, Hau Giang, and Dong Thap. The area of winter-spring rice infested by brown planthoppers has reached 200,000 hectares.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry has instructed various localities to urgently concentrate efforts on quelling the outbreak of brown planthoppers to ensure the yield of winter-spring rice, as well as to prevent them from developing and continuing to do harm to rice in the forthcoming summer-fail and 10th-month crop seasons.

All provinces must have a sufficient reserve stock of insecticide of various types that is capable of quelling any outbreak of insects.